

HUMAN TORCH **CAPTAIN AMERICA**

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CAPTAIN AMERICA

and THE CHINA WALL MYSTERY

CHINA... OLD AND MYSTERIOUS! AND THROUGH IT WINDS THE GREAT CHINA WALL, SYMBOL OF AN UNCONQUERABLE PEOPLE! BUT WHAT STRANGE FIGURE HAUNTS ITS ANCIENT PASSAGES? WHAT UNANSWERED ENIGMA STALKS THE OLDEN TUNNELS AND GIVES AID TO CAPTAIN AMERICA, AS HE CRUSHES A CUNNING JAP PLOT? WHAT IS THE BAFFLING ANSWER WHEN DEATH BRUSHES ITS WINGS AT CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT PASSES BY AT THE COMMAND OF A FRAIL OLD MAN OF CHINA?



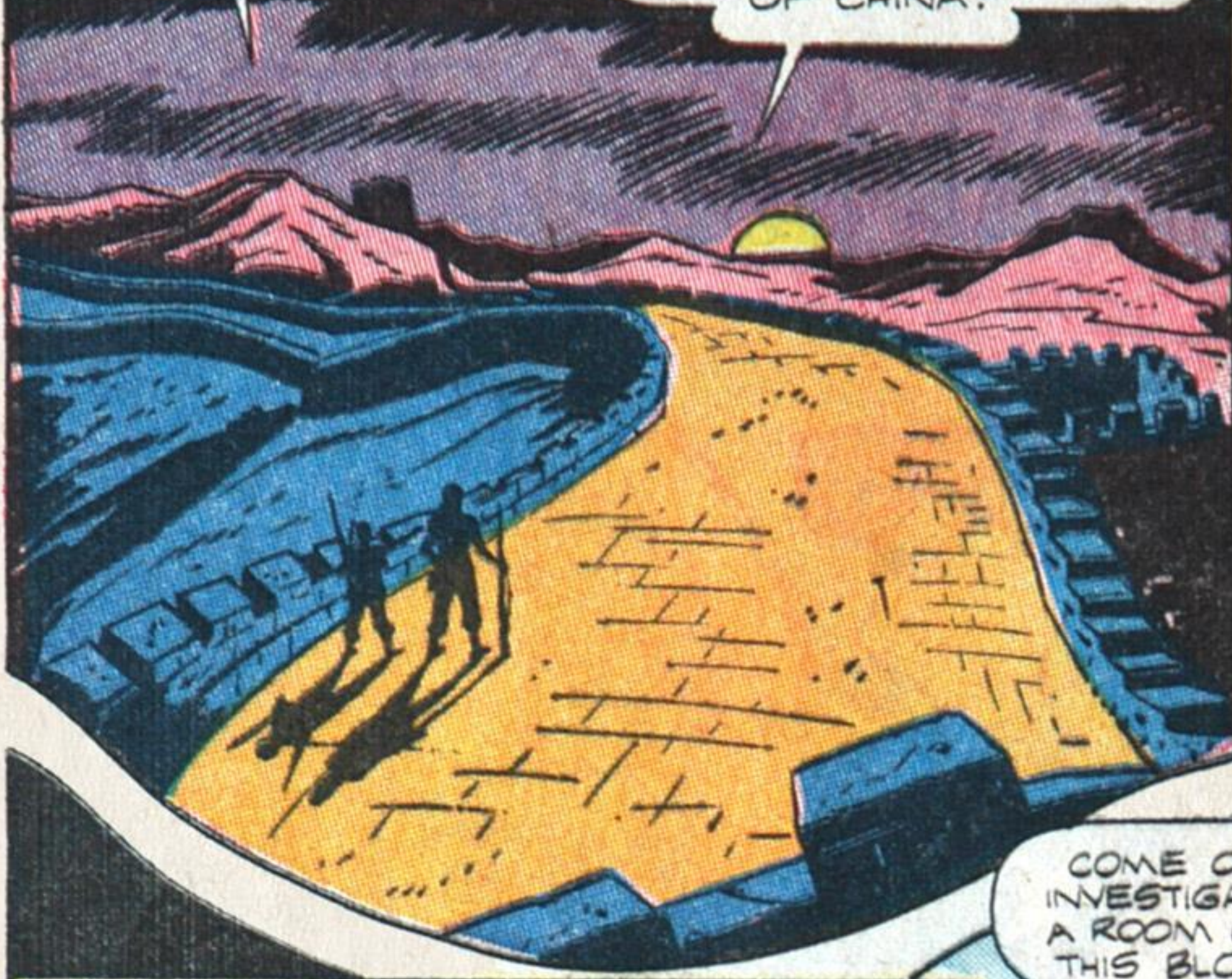
STATIONED WITH THE AMERICAN TROOPS IN CHINA, STEVE AND BUCKY ARE ON GUARD DUTY ON THE CHINA WALL---

WOW! WHAT A WALL!
IT'S AS WIDE AS A
HIGHWAY! HOW LONG
IS IT, ANYWAY?

ABOUT 1700 MILES, BUCKY!
SOME OF IT STRETCHES
INTO JAP-HELD TERRITORY,
BUT MOST OF IT EXTENDS
INTO THE HINTERLAND
OF CHINA!

IT WAS BUILT CENTURIES AGO
TO KEEP OUT THE MONGOL
INVADERS, BUT NOW IT HELPS
KEEP OUT THE JAP INVADERS!

AND HOW THEY'D
LIKE TO TAKE THE
WHOLE WALL, IF
THEY COULD!



SUDDENLY A STRANGE, OMINOUS RUMBLE
SOUNDS UNDER THEIR FEET, FROM WITHIN
THE WALL---

COME ON! WE'LL
INVESTIGATE! THERE'S
A ROOM UNDER
THIS BLOCK-
HOUSE!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT
NOISE UNDER OUR
FEET? SOUNDS
LIKE TANKS!

RUMBLE!
CLANK!

BUT A SHOT RINGS OUT FROM THE
CLAMMY DARKNESS!

FOOLS! STAY!
OUT, PLEASE!

BUILT
IN
ANCIENT
DAYS,
THE
SPACE
WITHIN
THE
BLOCK-
HOUSE
IS
DESERTED!

HOW ABOUT
THAT PASSAGE-
WAY?

IT ONLY LEADS
TO THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
WALL, BUT, LET'S
TRY IT!





I AM CALLED LAO-CHUNG!
I KNOW MANY ANCIENT
SECRETS! CELESTIAL PRO-
VIDENCE HAS SENT YOU TO
HELP MY POOR LAND, CAP-
TAIN AMERICA, AND NOW
I WILL AID YOU ALL I
CAN TO DEFEAT THE
BESTIAL JAP AND HIS NEW
PLAN! COME THIS WAY,
PLEASE!

BEHOLD! HATED
JAPS ESCAPED
THRU THIS TRAP
DOOR IN FLOOR!

HERE...
LET US
HELP,
SIR!

I NEED NO HELP!
THERE..GO BELOW!

But WITH AMAZING STRENGTH
FOR SO FRAIL A BODY, THE
OLD CHINESE LIFTS UP THE
TRAP-DOOR!

WHERE
DOES THIS
LEAD TO?

TO ANCIENT
PASSAGES WITH-
IN THE CHINA WALL,
LONG FORGOTTEN!

HOLY SMOKE!
THE CHINA WALL
IS HONEY-COMBED
WITH PASSAGES!

YES! THE BUILDERS
WERE CUNNING! OFTEN IN
ANCIENT DAYS, CHINESE
TROOPS WOULD HIDE HERE
...THEN BURST OUT TO ATTACK
THE SURPRISED MONGOLS!

AND WHEN THEY REACH THE LARGE TUNNEL...

JUMPIN' GRASSHOPPERS!
IT IS A WHOLE JAP ARMY
SNEAKING THRU THE
WALL INTO CHINESE
TERRITORY, CAP!

EASY, LAD! THERE
THEY ARE! THE
INVADERS! LET'S
HIDE!

NOW THE CURSED JAP
IS USING THAT SAME
TRICK! HARK! THEY
ARE AHEAD!

SOUNDS LIKE A
WHOLE JAP ARMY!

RUMBLE!
CLANK!

ALL GOES WELL!
BY MORNING WE
WILL BE DEED IN
MISERABLE CHINESE
TERRITORY! WE WILL
STRIKE BEHIND
THE LINES!

YESSS,
HONORABLE
GENERAL
SNEEKI!

ALL UNKNOWING OF THE VAST JAP ARMY PASSING
DEEP WITHIN THE GREAT CHINA WALL, THE CHINESE
FORCES SLUMBER!

HA! HA!
PAST THE
MAIN
CHINESE
GARRISON!

Meanwhile...

GOOD GRIEF! WE'VE GOT
TO WARN THE CHINESE HEAD-
QUARTERS ABOVE! IF THIS JAP
ARMY GETS PAST AND ATTACKS
FROM THE REAR, NORTH
CHINA WILL FALL!

BUT CAP AND BUCKY ARE SPOTTED BY
THE JAPS ---!

SPIES! SEIZE
THEM!

GUESS WE'RE
IN FOR A FIGHT,
CAP!

RUN, LAO-CHUNG! WE'LL LET
YOU GET AWAY, ANYWAY!

NO! I
SHALL
STAY!

YAHOO!

POW!



DIE, UNWORTHY CHINESE PIG!

DIE? PERHAPS IT IS YOU WHO WILL FEEL THE KISS OF DEATH!

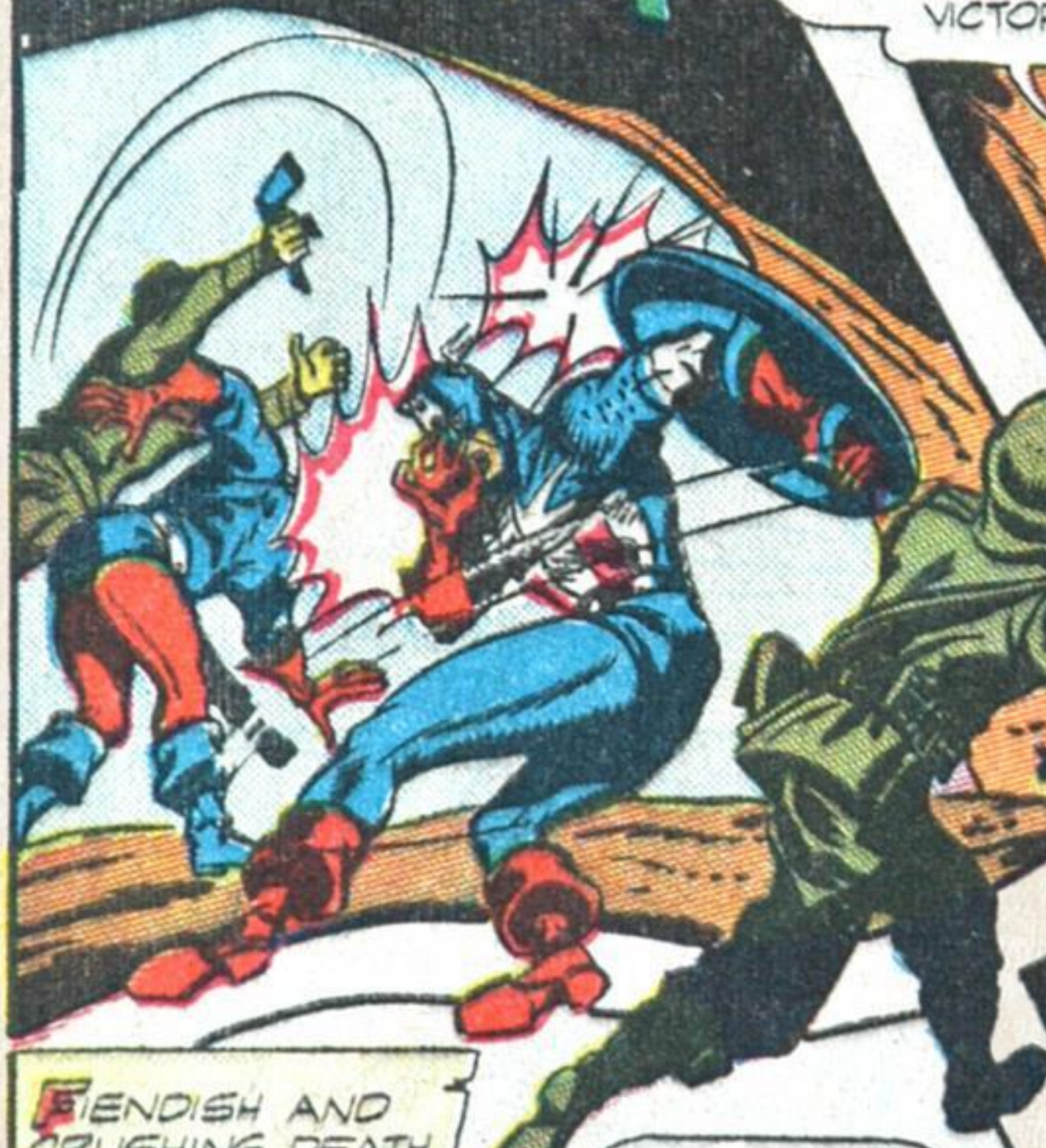
LOOK OUT, LAO-CHUNG!



CAP! DID YOU SEE THAT? LAO-CHUNG KILLED THAT JAP SOMEHOW!

AND YET LAO-CHUNG IS GONE... VANISHED!

PARTLY STUNNED BY THE MYSTERY, CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY FALL EASY PREY TO THE OUTNUMBERING JAPS!



DEATH, NATURALLY! TIE THEM FLAT! WE WILL LET OUR TANKS ROLL OVER THEM ON THEIR WAY TO VICTORY!

AH! THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF! SO YOU TRIED TO EXPOSE OUR MAGNIFICENT PLAN?

OKAY, CUT THE ORATORY! GET IT OVER WITH! WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?



FENDISH AND CRUSHING DEATH AWAITS OUR TWO HEROES...

THIS IS IT, BUCKY!

LOOKS LIKE IT! I ONLY HOPE LAO-CHUNG GOT AWAY AND GAVE THE WARNING!



COURAGE, MY FRIENDS! I WILL HELP YOU!

LOOK, CAP! HE CAME BACK! LAO-CHUNG IS STANDING RIGHT BESIDE US!

I WILL STOP THE TANK!

LAO! NO! YOU'LL BE CRUSHED TO SHREDS! RUN, SIR... RUN!

BUT STRANGELY, THE TANK COUGHS AND DIES!

COUGH!
SPUTTER!
SPUT SPUT!

HALT!
I SAY!

WHO IS THE OLD FOOL? BLAST HIM WITH GUNS!

BOOM!

Meanwhile, EXERTING THEIR COMBINED STRENGTH, CAP AND BUCKY HAVE HAD TIME TO WORK FREE OF THEIR BONDS AND...

While LAO-CHUNG SEEMS TO BE IMMUNE TO THE CANNON FIRE, OUR DARING FIGHTING PAIR INVADE THE TANK!

YOU CHAPS ARE NOW ON LEAVE!

WAHOO!

AGHH!

WHAT SAY, BUCKY? CAN WE TAKE OVER THAT TANK?

NOTHING LIKE TRYING!

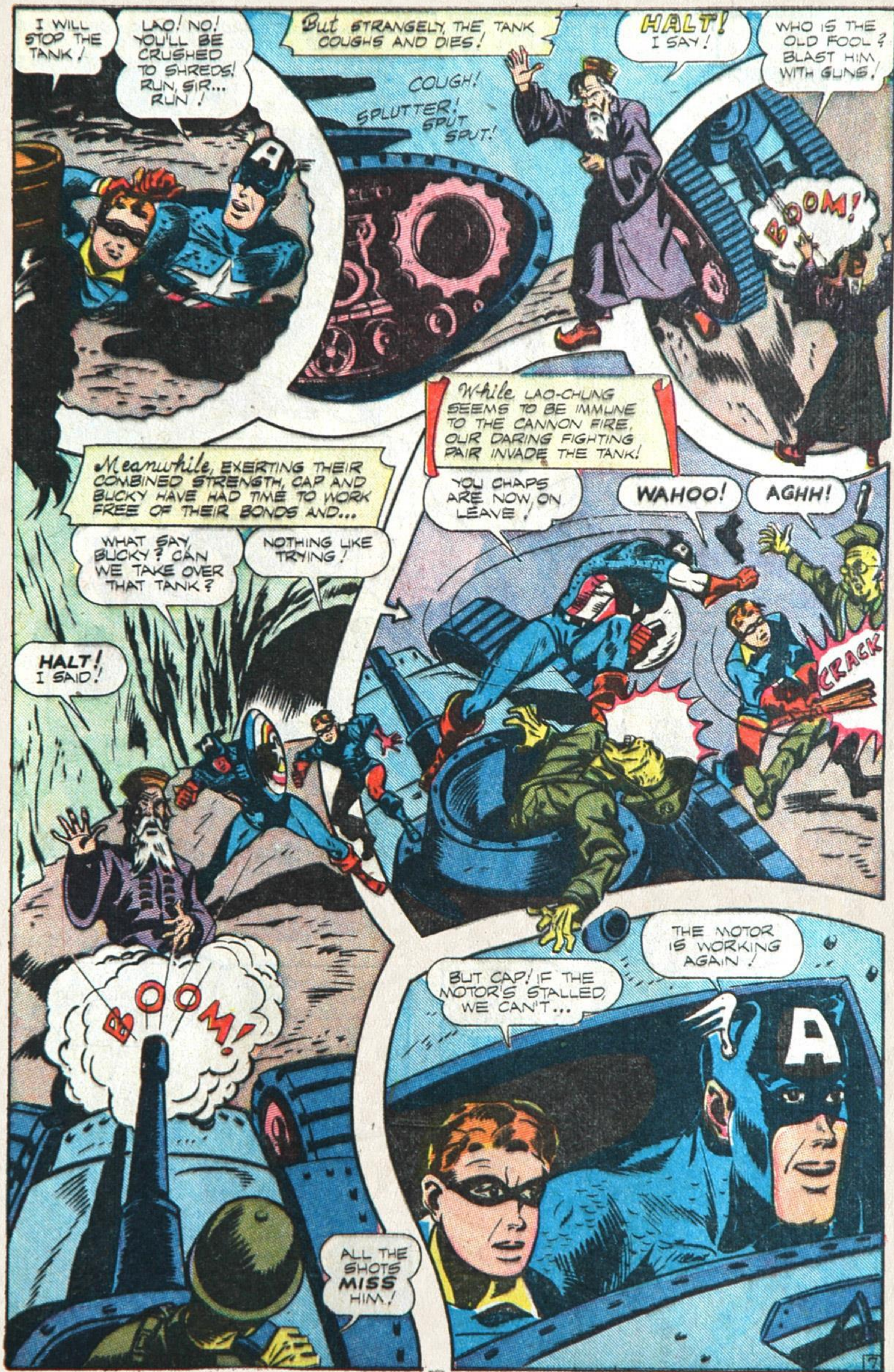
HALT!
I SAID!

CRACK

THE MOTOR IS WORKING AGAIN!

BUT CAP! IF THE MOTOR'S STALLED, WE CAN'T...

ALL THE SHOTS MISS HIM!



GO! I GIVE YOU
MY BLESSING!

HOLY CATS, CAP! DID
LAO-CHUNG HAVE ANY-
THING TO DO WITH ALL
THIS... OR DID I
DREAM IT?

WHEELING, THE CAPTURED TANK NOW BLOCKS
THE ENTIRE JAP FORCES...

YAHOO! GET
PAST US IF YOU
CAN, YOU SKUNKS!

BOOM!

SUPERIOR FIRE-POWER
STRIKES CAP'S TANK, AND
CAP AND BUCKY LEAP FOR
SAFETY!

BOOM!
BOOM-BOOM!

ATTACK! ATTACK! CAN
ONE MISERABLE, IN-
SIGNIFICANT TANK STOP
OUR WHOLE ARMY?
BLAST IT TO PIECES!

CRASH!

LUCKY WE
WEREN'T
KILLED!

LET'S GO, BUCKY! NOW'S
OUR CHANCE TO DASH UP
AND WARN HEADQUARTERS!

BUT LAO-CHUNG!
WONDER WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HIM?

DOWN THIS SIDE
PASSAGE! IT
LEADS TO THE
STAIRS!

SUDDENLY, JAPS CUT THEM OFF AT A CROSS CORRIDOR---

BACK, BUCKY! WE'RE BLOCKED!

THEY SET UP A MACHINE GUN--- CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT!

PERHAPS YOU NEED MY HELP AGAIN?

WOW! WHAT A PICKLE!

WAGN'T IT YOUR SHAKESPEARE WHO WROTE: "THERE ARE MORE THINGS ON HEAVEN AND EARTH THAN YOU DREAM OF." ALSO, CONFUCIUS SAID: "HAVE FAITH, AND THE MOUNTAINS MUST MOVE!"

LAO-CHUNG! BUT...

ARE WE SEEING THINGS? BUT HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE JAPS? THIS IS GETTING TO BE CREEPY!

RAT-
RAT

TAT

RAT-TAT

And THEN HE HOBBOLES FORWARD ON HIS THIN, WEAK LEGS... STRAIGHT INTO THE JAP HELL OF LEAD!

STOP, SIR! YOU'LL BE KILLED!

WAS I KILLED BEFORE, MY SON?

RAT-TAT-RAT

RAT-TAT

STOP, I SAY!

THIS IS DEVIL'S WORK! GUN IS USELESS!

CLIK CLIK



FIRST HE GETS BAYONETED... AND LIVES! A TANK COMES AT HIM AND STALLS! NOW HE WALKS AT A MACHINE GUN... AND IT **JAMS!** GOSH, CAP...WHAT'S THE ANSWER? WHO IS HE?



NEVER MIND NOW LAD! LETS GET THOSE MONKEYS!

USE BAYONETS!



ONCE AGAIN THE MIGHTY DUO GOES INTO ACTION ---!

YAHOO!



CAP! LOOK OUT! BACK OF YOU!



ANOTHER MIRACLE!

NEVER FEAR! HE WILL JOIN HIS ANCESTORS!



HOW DO YOU DO IT, SIR?

CAP! NO TIME TO TALK! THE JAP ARMY IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!



C'MON, BUCKY! WE'LL INFORM HEADQUARTERS!

WAIT, MY FRIENDS! THERE IS NO NEED!

UH?

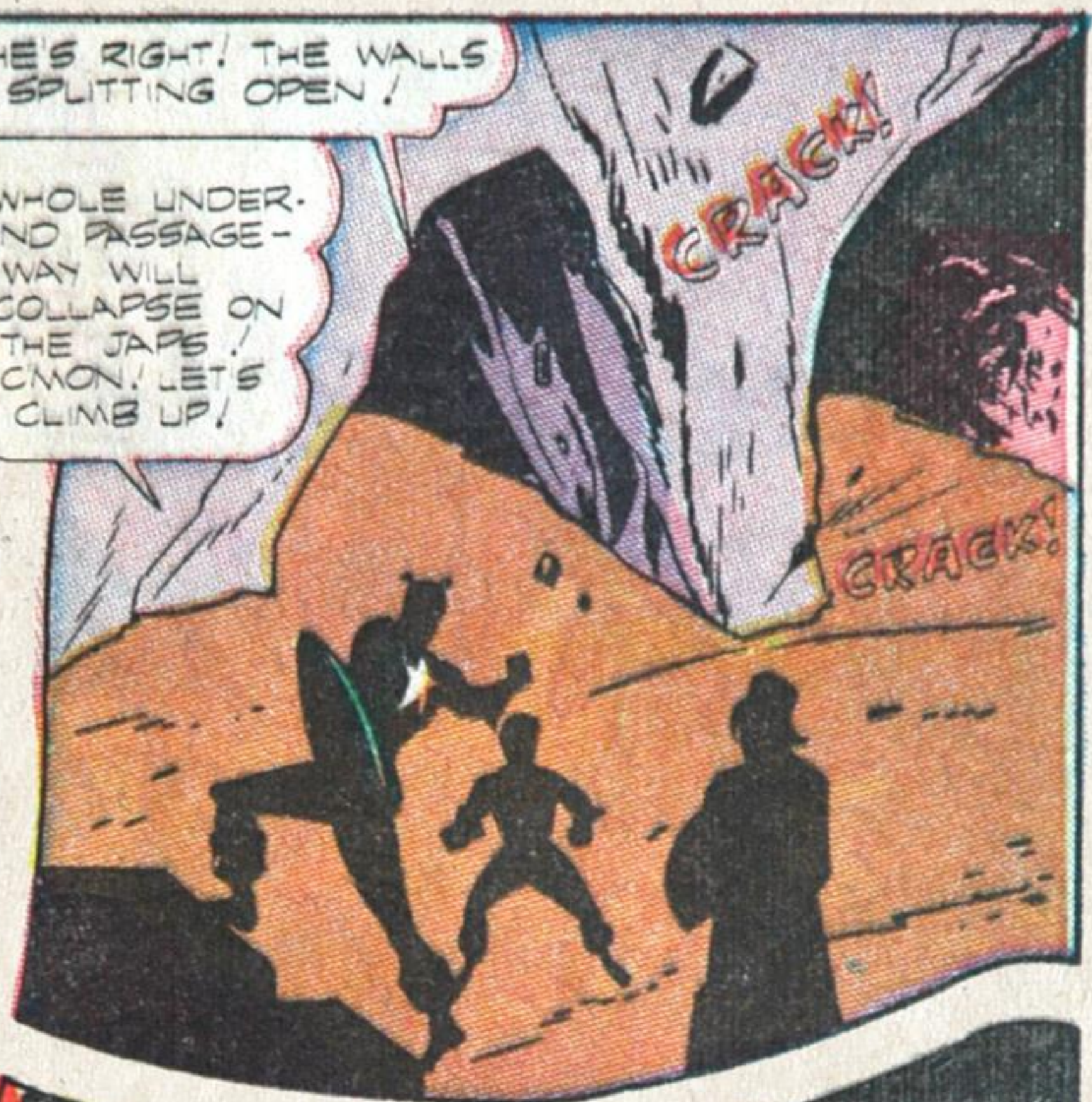
IT IS WRITTEN THE ENEMY
WILL DIE! AND SO IT SHALL
COME TO PASS! NOW THAT
YOU ARE SAFE... BEHOLD!
THE VERY WALLS ARE
CRACKING!

LOOK! HE'S RIGHT! THE WALLS
ARE SPLITTING OPEN!

THE WHOLE UNDER-
GROUND PASSAGE -
WAY WILL
COLLAPSE ON
THE JAPS!
CMON! LET'S
CLIMB UP!

CRACK!

CRACK!



With GRINDING, CLASHING ROAR, THE
ANCIENT WALLS OF THE UNDERGROUND
TUNNELS SPLIT APART, AND BURY THE
JAP COLUMNS IN TONS OF SMASHING
DEBRIS!



GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS!
IT IS WRITTEN THAT I,
TOO, MUST GO NOW!



When ALL IS QUIET... THE UTTER QUIET OF DEATH... CAP AND BUCKY MAKE THEIR WAY UPWARD TO THE UNDAMAGED OUTER WALL...

LATER...

BUT IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE, CAP! WERE THOSE OLD PASSAGES SO ROTTEN THEY WERE DUE TO COLLAPSE?

THAT MUST BE IT, LAD! THE NOISE AND VIBRATION OF THE JAP ARMY JUST BROUGHT THE WALLS DOWN ON THEM, THAT WAS ALL!

LAO TOO!

EVERY JAP... DEAD AND BURIED!

BUT IN THE CORNER OF THE BLOCKHOUSE, BUCKY SEES A STRANGE THING...

G-GULP! CAP, LOOK---THAT STONE TABLET!

UH?

A COFFIN! WHAT DOES IT SAY, CAP? YOU'VE LEARNED A SMATTERING OF CHINESE!

IT SAYS... BUILDER..CHINA WALL... JOINED HIS ANCESTORS... AND THE NAME, BUCKY, IS---

WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BELIEVE THAT OLD LAO-CHUNG HAD MAGICAL POWERS! HE WAS JUST AN OLD MAN WHO HAD PENED TO BE AROUND!

LAO-CHUNG!

LAO CHUNG? THEN HE DIED CENTURIES AGO! HE'S BURIED HERE! BUT WHO... OR WHAT... HELPED US?? WAS IT HIS... HIS GHOST?

WHO KNOWS, BUCKY? CHINA IS AN OLD, MYSTERIOUS COUNTRY! IF LAO-CHUNG DID COME BACK FROM HIS GRAVE... WELL, WE'D BETTER FORGET IT!

WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOME OTHER REPORT FOR HEAD-QUARTERS!

THE END

THE HUMAN TORCH

VS. "DEATH CARGO"





TORCH AND TORO RETURN HOME AFTER A MOVIE!

BOY! I CAN'T WAIT TO POUND THE ALFALFA!

LOOKS LIKE A MESSAGE OR A CARD STUCK IN THE DOOR!

SO IT'S A CARD TELLING US WESTERN UNION TRIED TO DELIVER A TELEGRAM, SO WHAT? IT CAN WAIT 'TIL MORNING!

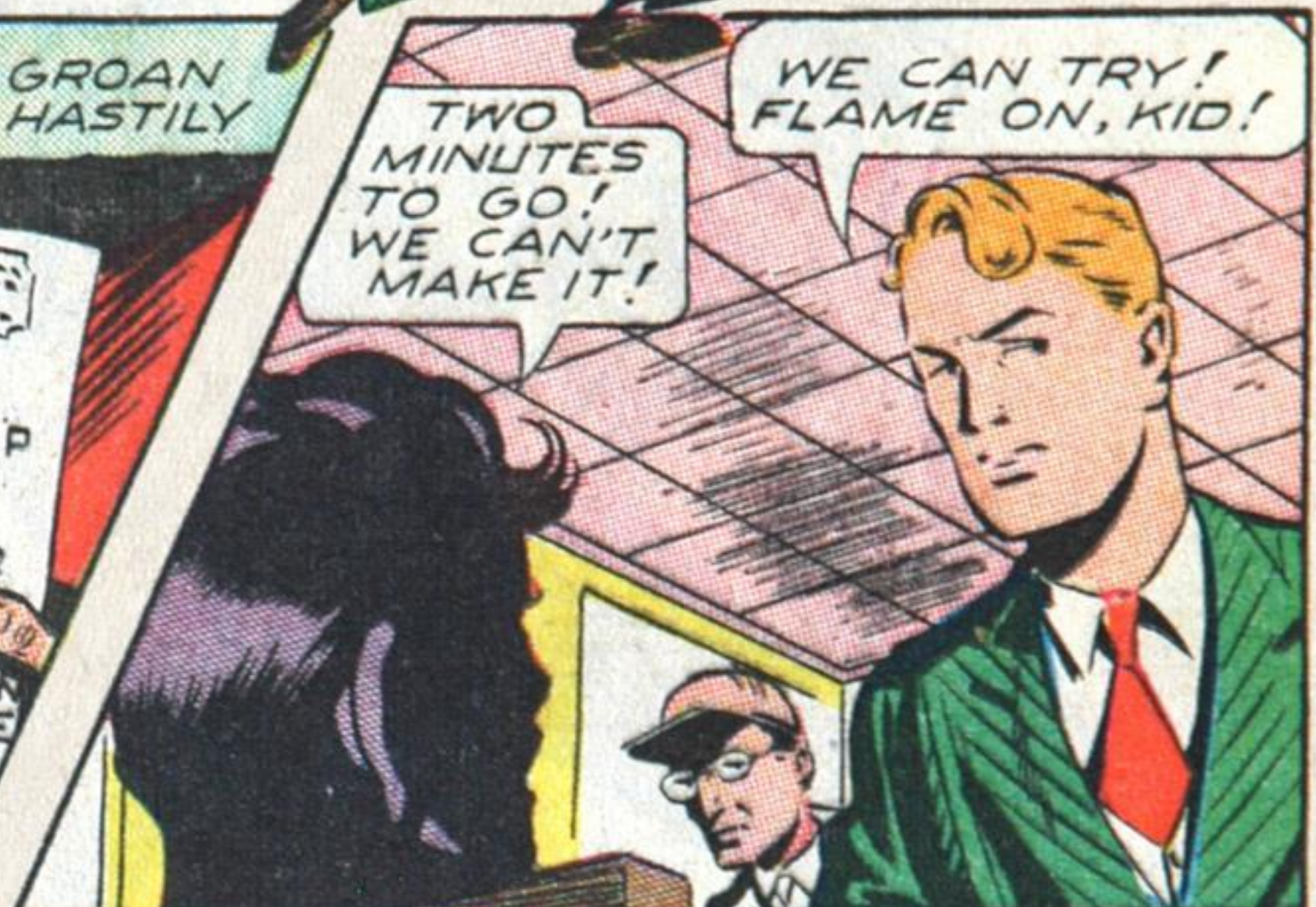
MAY BE IMPORTANT! THE OFFICE IS RIGHT DOWN THE STREET!

AT THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE, A GROAN IS RUNG FROM TORCH AS HE HASTILY SCANS THE TELEGRAM!

WESTERN UNION

TORCH---
AM IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE, AND APPEAL TO YOU TO HELP ME. YOU MUST TRY TO PREVENT A DREADFUL EVENT THAT WILL OCCUR AT MIDNIGHT AT THE 'CHRYSOTILE MINES' ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TAUNTON PA. PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE MY PLEA... THREE LIVES ARE IN THE BALANCE.

AGNES TRUETT

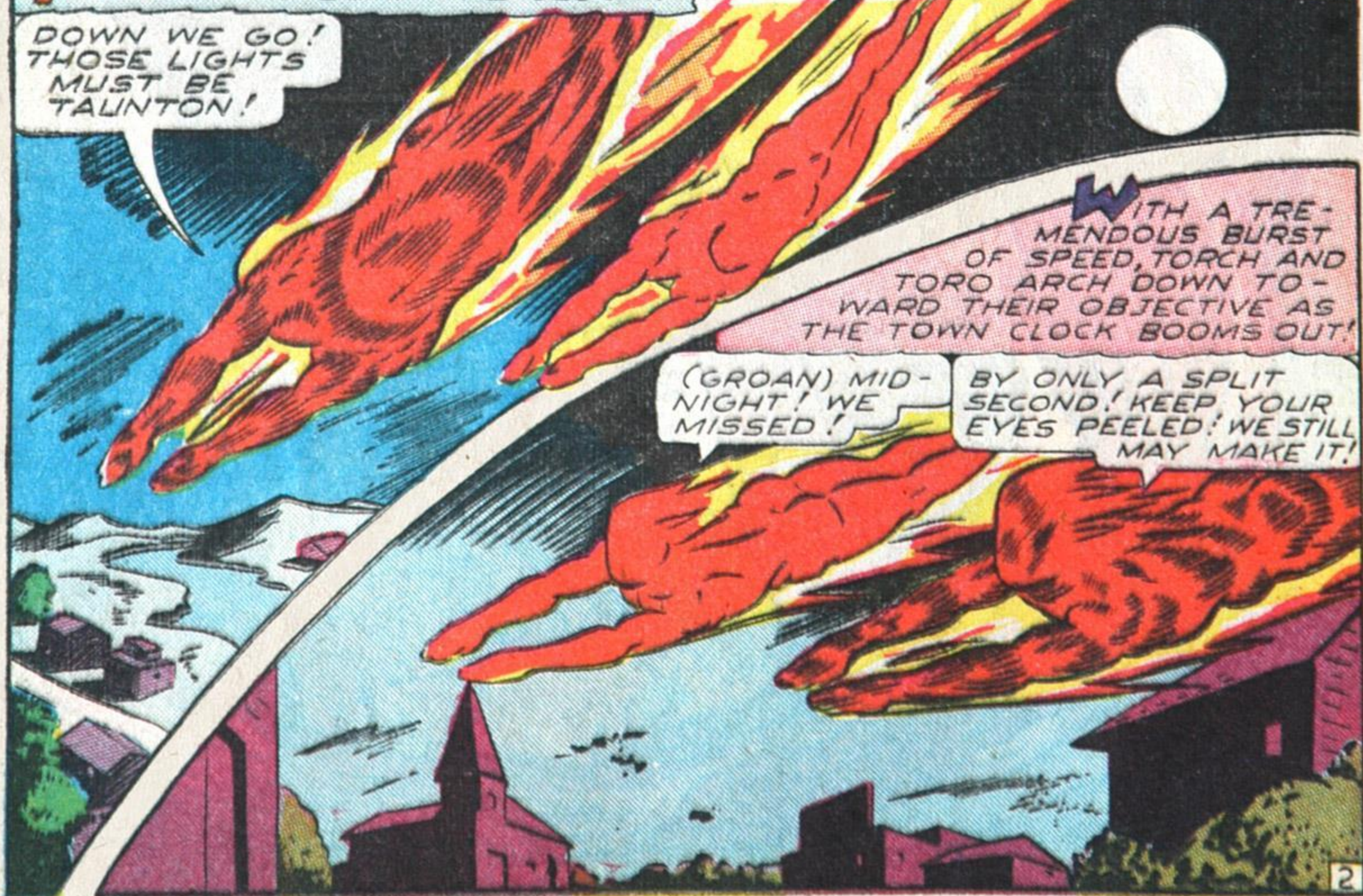


TWO MINUTES TO GO! WE CAN'T MAKE IT!

WE CAN TRY! FLAME ON, KID!

TWO FLAMING METEORS KNIFE THE DARK NIGHT IN A GALLANT EFFORT TO BEAT THE CLOCK!

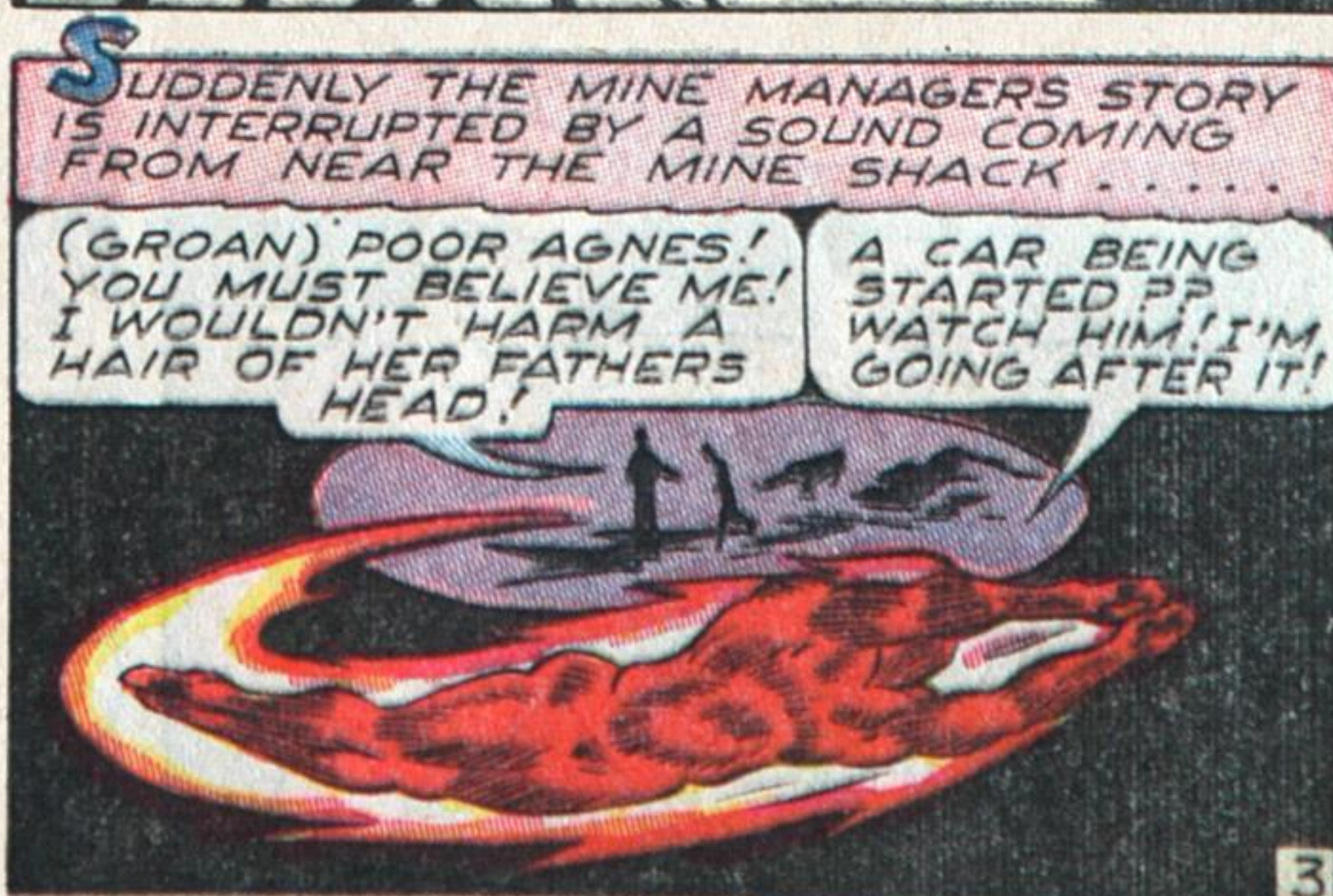
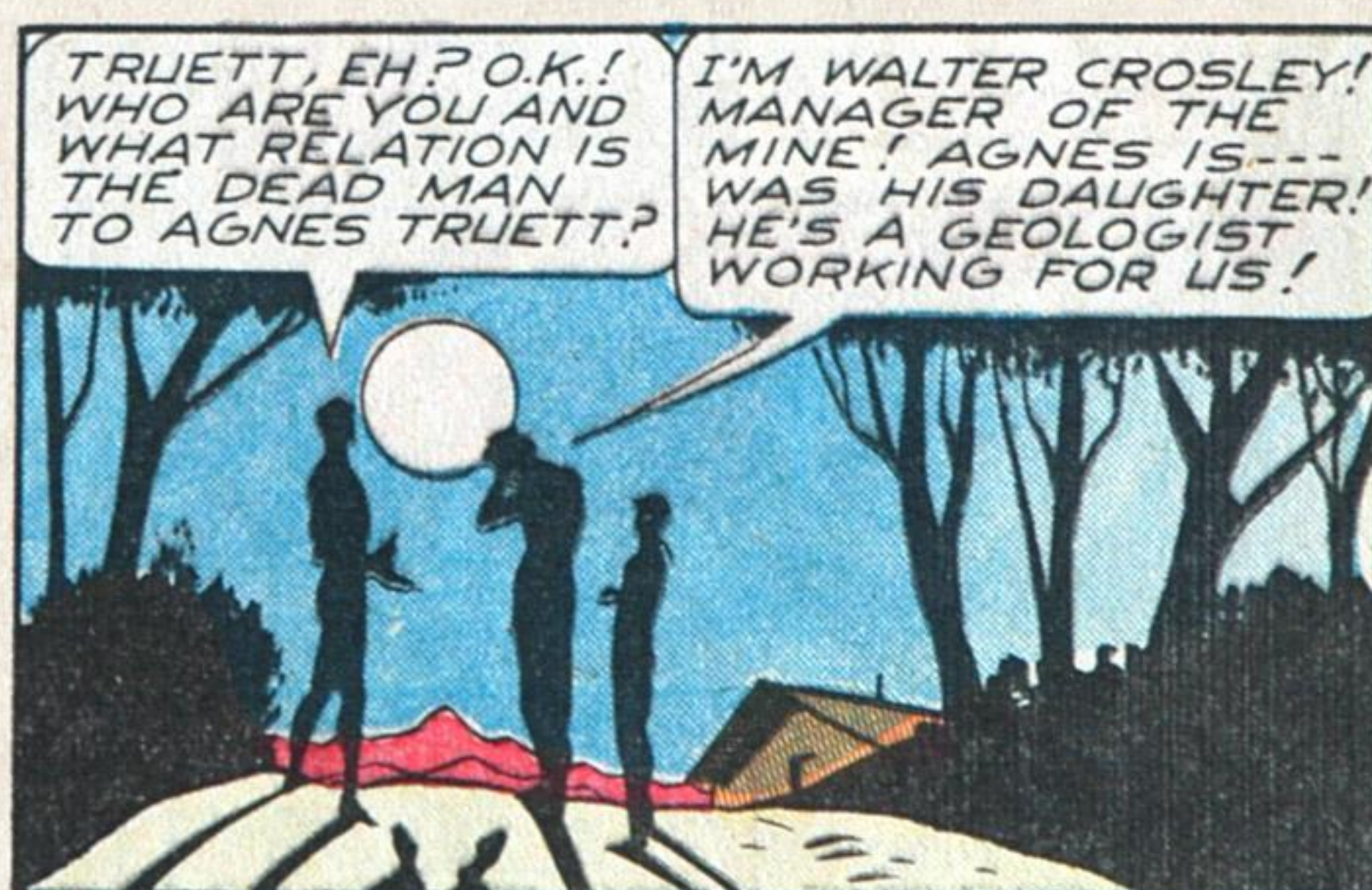
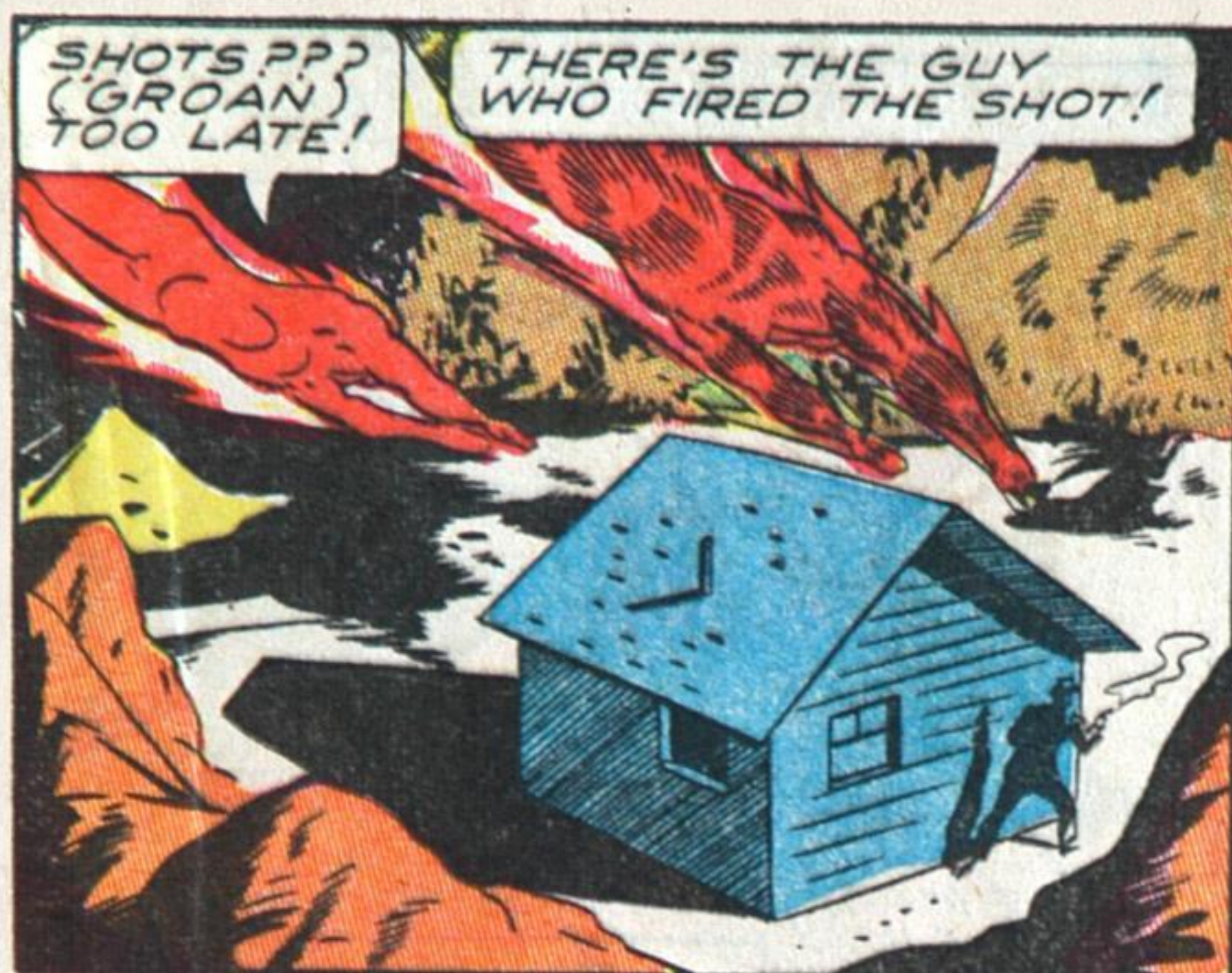
DOWN WE GO! THOSE LIGHTS MUST BE TAUNTON!



WITH A TREMENDOUS BURST OF SPEED, TORCH AND TORO ARCH DOWN TOWARD THEIR OBJECTIVE AS THE TOWN CLOCK BOOMS OUT!

(GROAN) MID-NIGHT! WE MISSED!

BY ONLY A SPLIT SECOND! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! WE STILL MAY MAKE IT!



A RCHING INTO THE AIR, TORCH QUICKLY SPOTS A CAR SPEEDING AWAY FROM THE MINE!

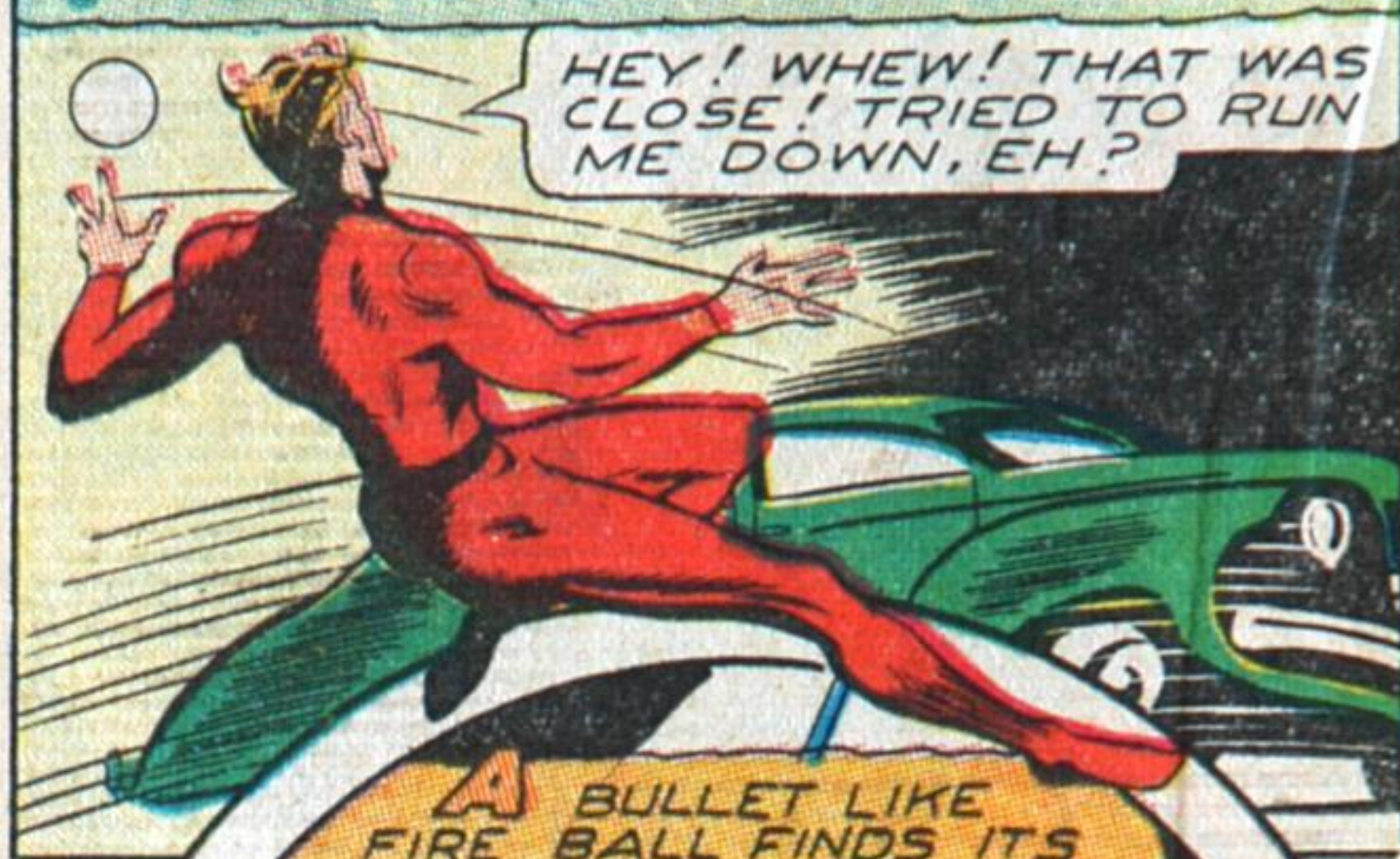
WHAT THE... IT'S THE TORCH!

RED LIGHT, MY FRIENDS! PULL OVER!



THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR IGNORE TORCH'S COMMAND TO HALT!

HEY! WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! TRIED TO RUN ME DOWN, EH?



A BULLET LIKE FIRE BALL FINDS ITS MARK WITH UNERRING AIM!

WHO ARE YOU AND WHY WERE YOU TRYING TO GET AWAY?

I'LL TELL YOU --- DON'T COME SO CLOSE! YOU'RE BURNING US!



I'M RAWLINGS, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE MINE! WE'RE GOING FOR THE POLICE! WE WEREN'T RUNNING AWAY!

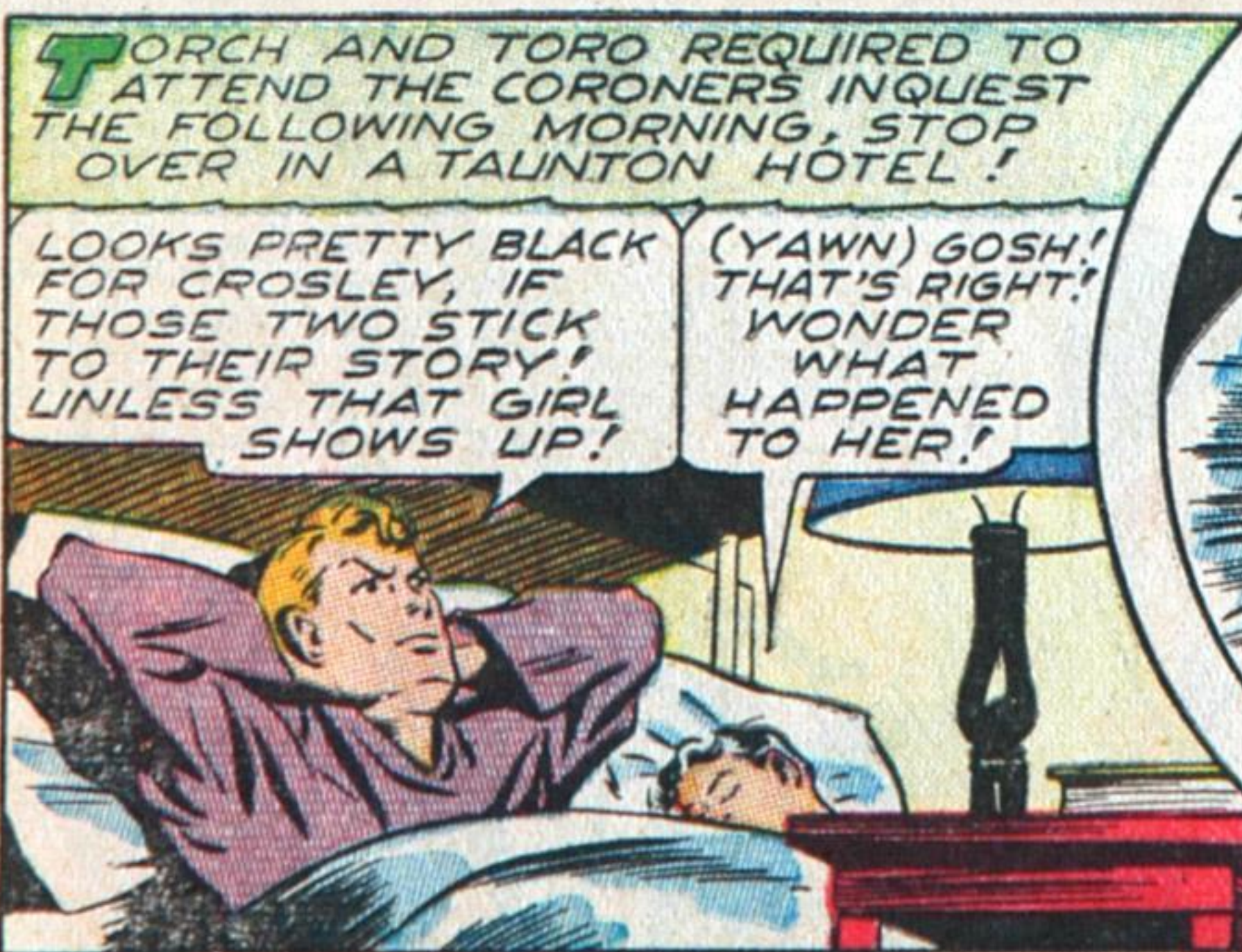
WHY DID YOU TRY TO RUN ME DOWN WHEN I CALLED TO YOU TO HALT?

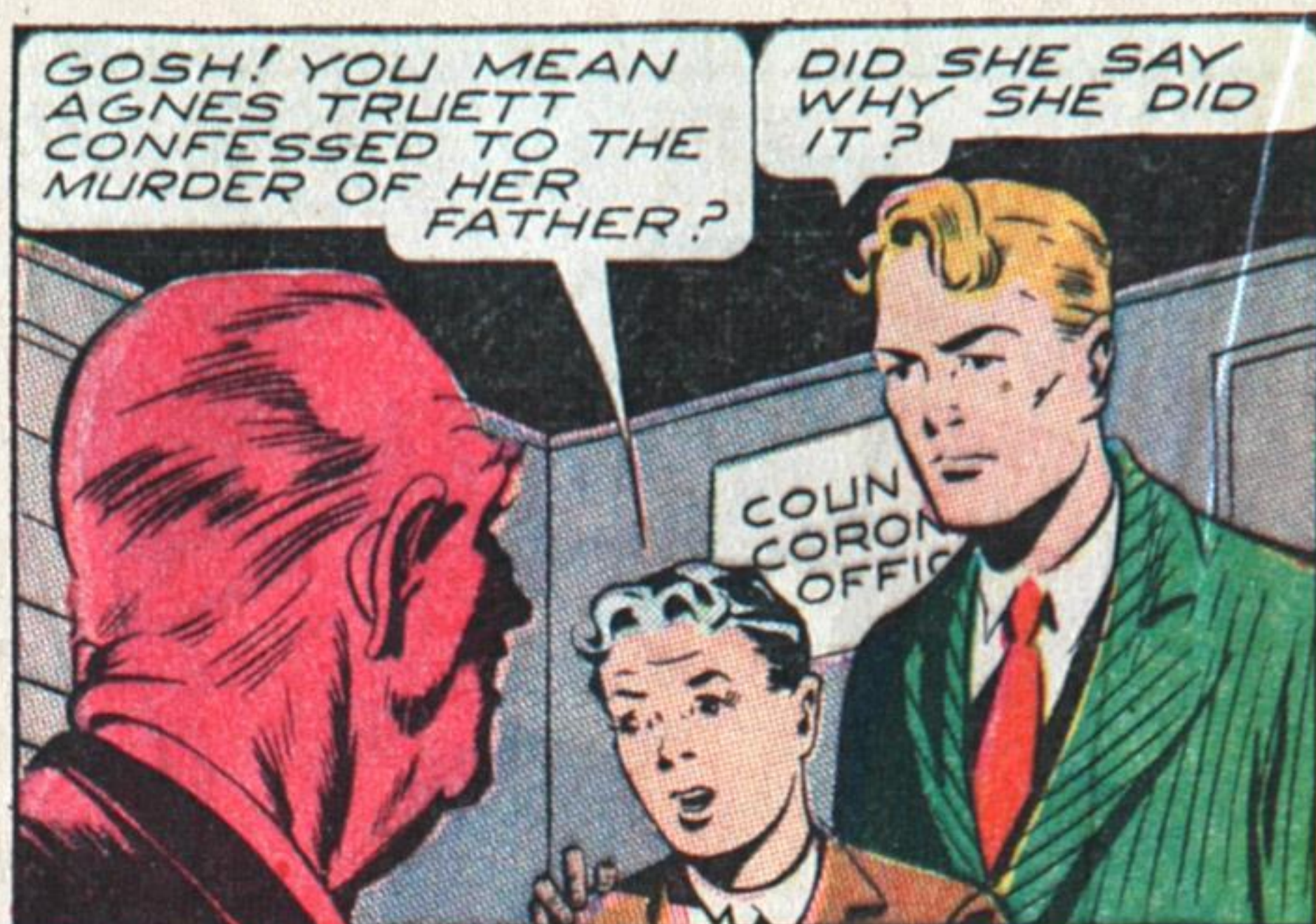
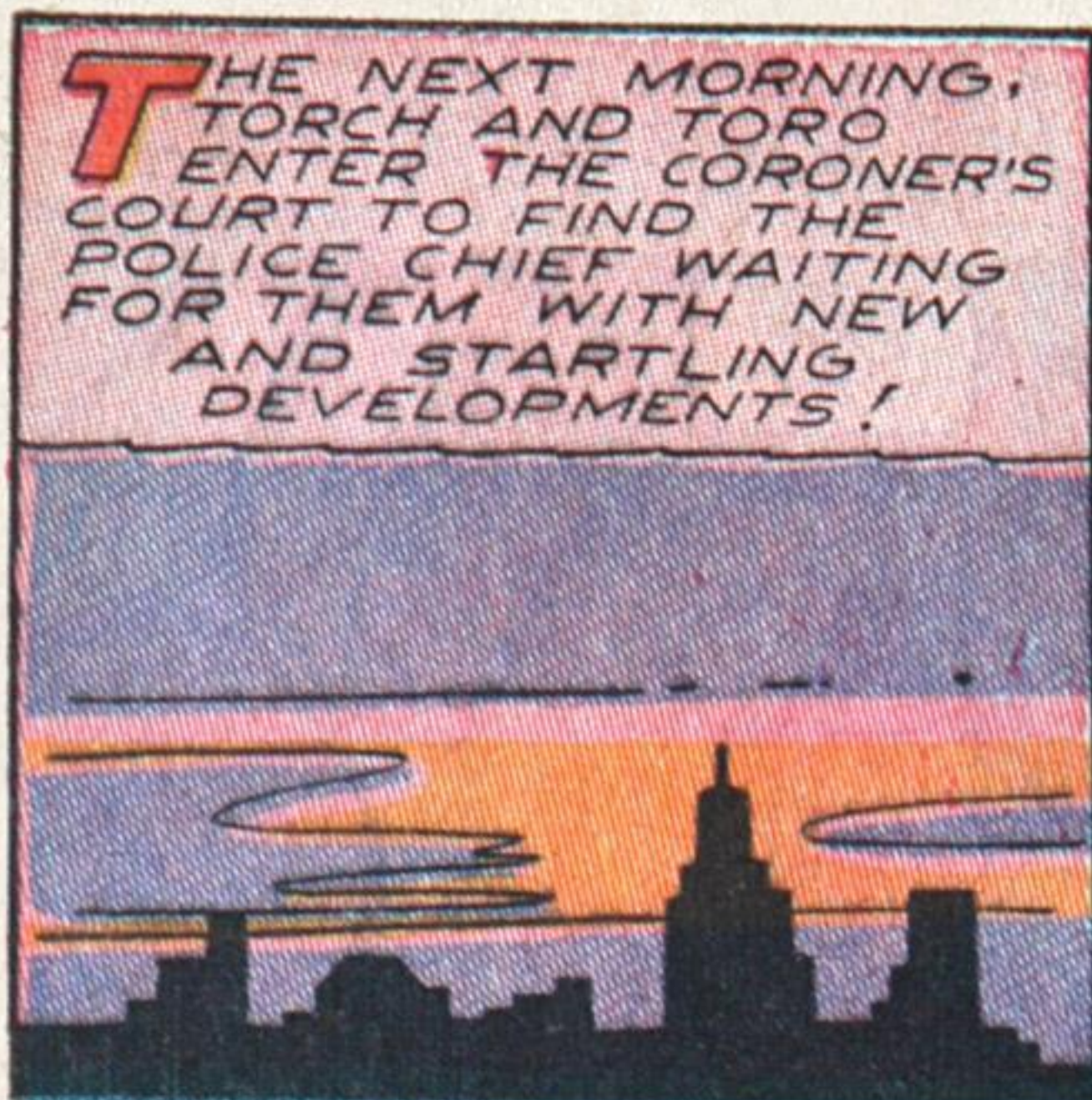


YOUR APPEARANCE STARTLED ME! I MEANT TO STOP, BUT I STEPPED ON THE ACCELERATOR INSTEAD!

HMM?? PRETTY FAST ANSWER! WHY DIDN'T YOU PHONE THE POLICE!





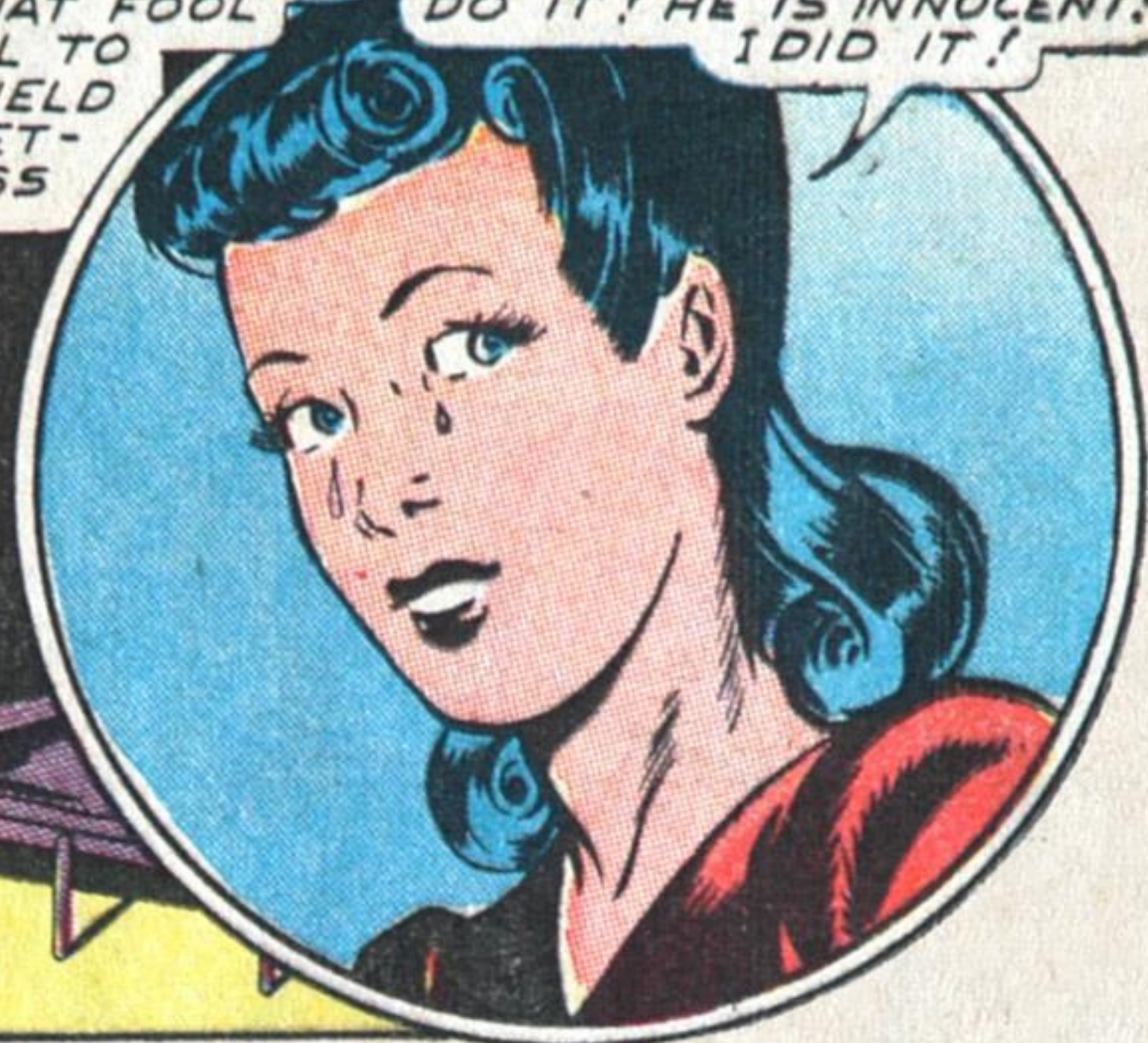
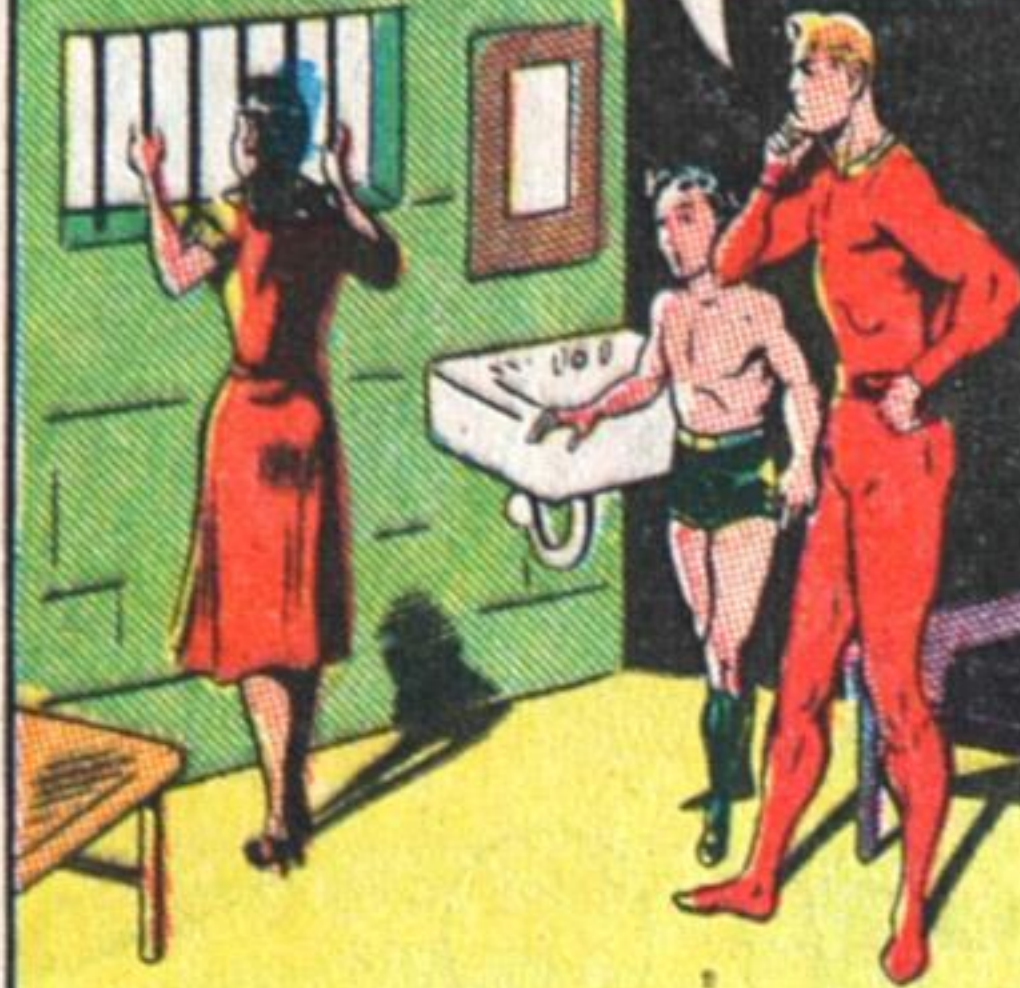


TORCH AND TORO FLAME TO THE CELL WHERE AGNES PRUETT, HER EYES SWOLLEN WITH TEARS, STUBBORNLY INSISTS THAT SHE KILLED HER OWN FATHER!

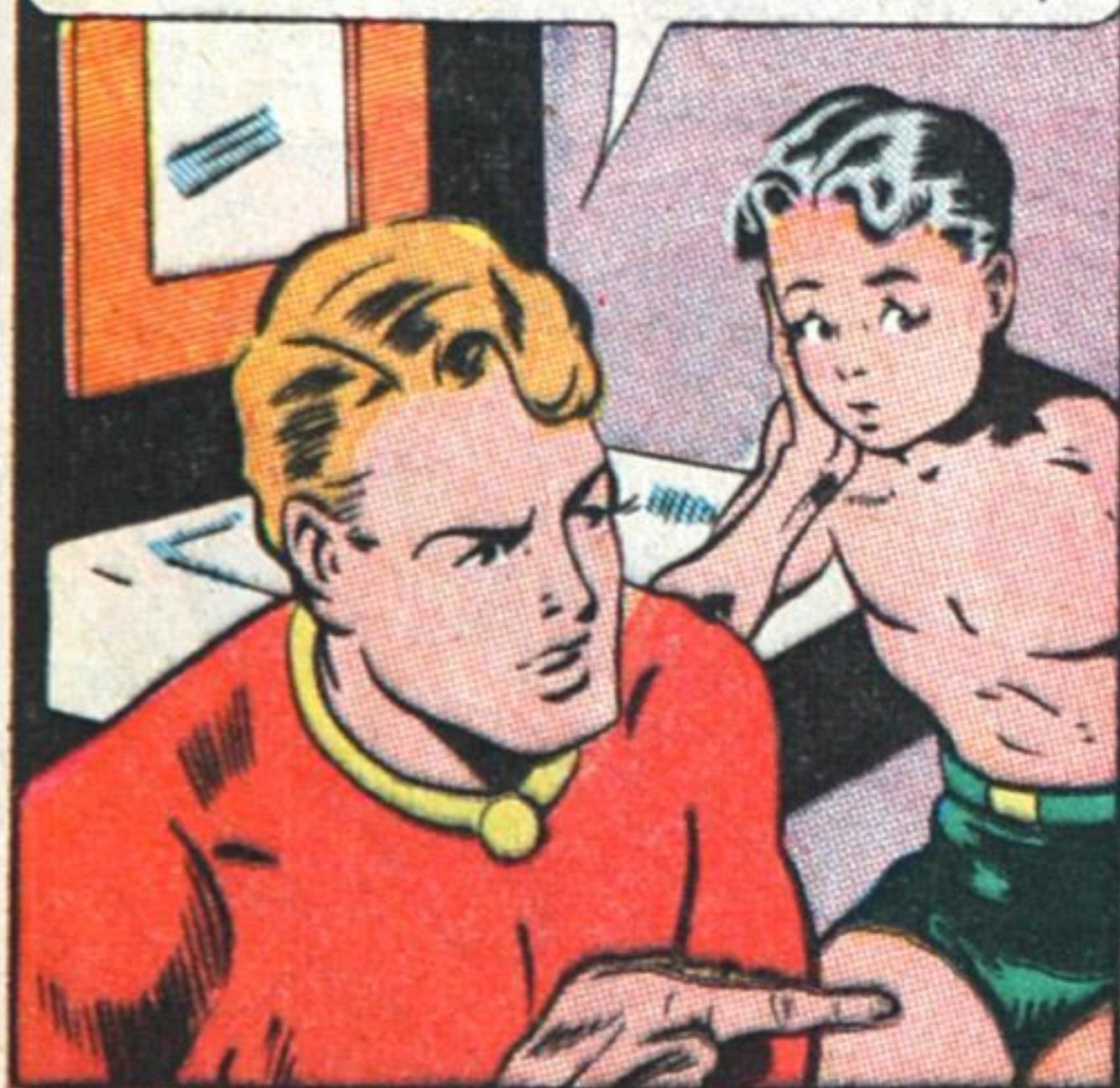
PLEASE, LET ME BE! GO AWAY! THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

YOU ARE A COURAGEOUS IF SOMEWHAT FOOL HARDY GIRL TO TRY TO SHIELD YOUR SWEET-HEART, MISS TRUETT!

NO! WALTER DIDN'T DO IT! HE IS INNOCENT! I DID IT!



HOW COULD YOU WHEN AT TEN P.M. LAST NIGHT, TWO HOURS BEFORE YOUR FATHER WAS MURDERED---YOU WERE SOME FOUR HUNDRED MILES FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME??

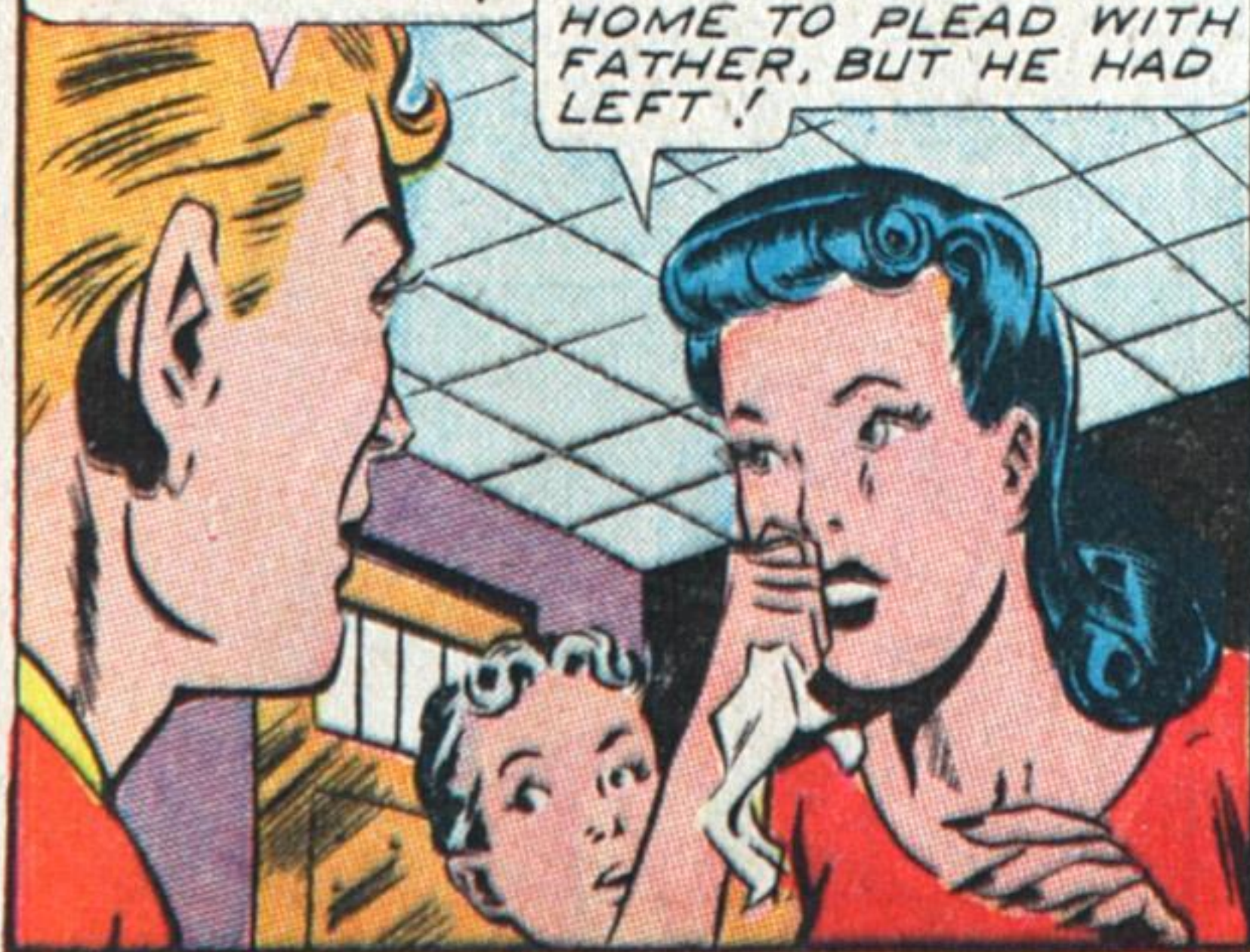


(SOB) YOU ARE RIGHT! I WAITED TO SEE YOU AND WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME HOME, I SENT IT, HOPING YOU WOULD GET HERE IN TIME TO SAVE DAD! YESTERDAY WE QUARRELED ABOUT WALTER! DAD THREATENED TO KILL HIM IF I MARRIED HIM! AT NOON I HEARD DAD ON THE PHONE, TELLING WALTER TO MEET HIM AT THE MINE AT MIDNIGHT! I SAW FATHER TAKE A GUN FROM HIS DESK DRAWER!



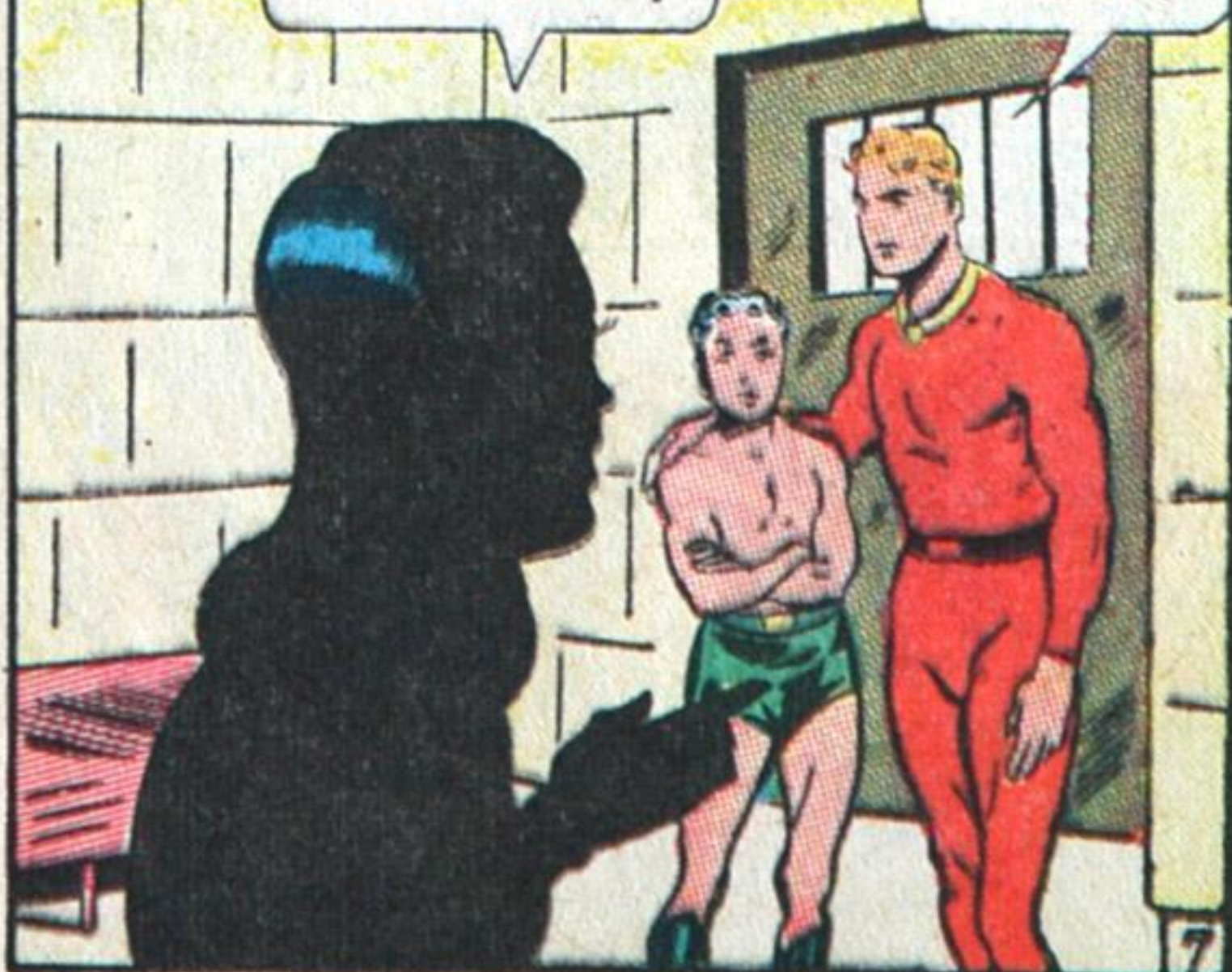
HMN? AND YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU WENT TO THE MINE TO WARN WALTER, HE WAS GONE?

YES! I KNEW THAT HE KEPT A GUN IN HIS DESK! I LOOKED FOR IT AND WHEN I FOUND IT GONE, I WAS CRAZY WITH FEAR! I RAN HOME TO PLEAD WITH FATHER, BUT HE HAD LEFT!



I WAS FRANTIC AND WHEN I COULDN'T LOCATE EITHER OF THEM, I TOOK THE TWO O'CLOCK TRAIN AND REACHED YOUR APARTMENT AT EIGHT, TO FIND YOU OUT!

COME ON, TORO! WE'RE GOING TO SPEAK TO CROSLY NEXT!



TORCH AND TORO RACE FROM THE SOBBING GIRL'S CELL BACK TO THE POLICE CHIEF TO ASK TO SEE CROSLY, ONLY TO LEARN THAT HE, HIS ASSISTANT AND THE WATCH-MAN HAD BEEN FREED!

SECONDS LATER, TORCH AND TORO FLAME ACROSS TAUNTON TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS!

FREED? GOSH! WHAT IF HE BEATS IT OUT OF TOWN?

I DON'T THINK HE WILL!

TORCH IS RIGHT! I HAD TO PRACTICALLY THROW HIM OUT! HE KEEPS INSISTING HE DID IT AND THE GIRL IS INNOCENT! HE LIVES AT-----

SHOTS?? AND COMING FROM CROSLY'S HOUSE!

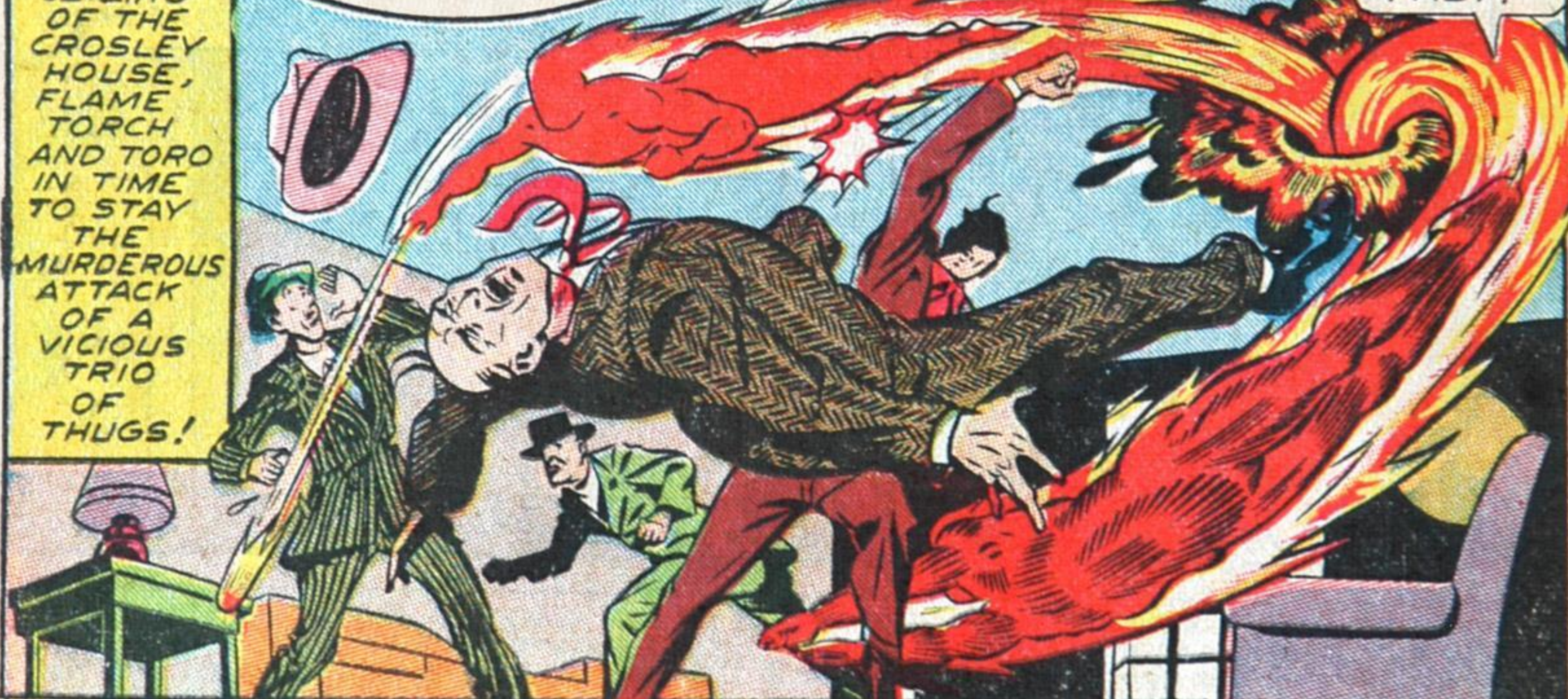
FASTER, TORO! WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE AGAIN!



THROUGH THE CEILING OF THE CROSLY HOUSE, FLAME TORCH AND TORO IN TIME TO STAY THE MURDEROUS ATTACK OF A VICIOUS TRIO OF THUGS!

THIS CROSLY IS NO SLOB WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING HIMSELF!

RIGHT! ONLY HE'LL NEED OUR HELP AND FAST!



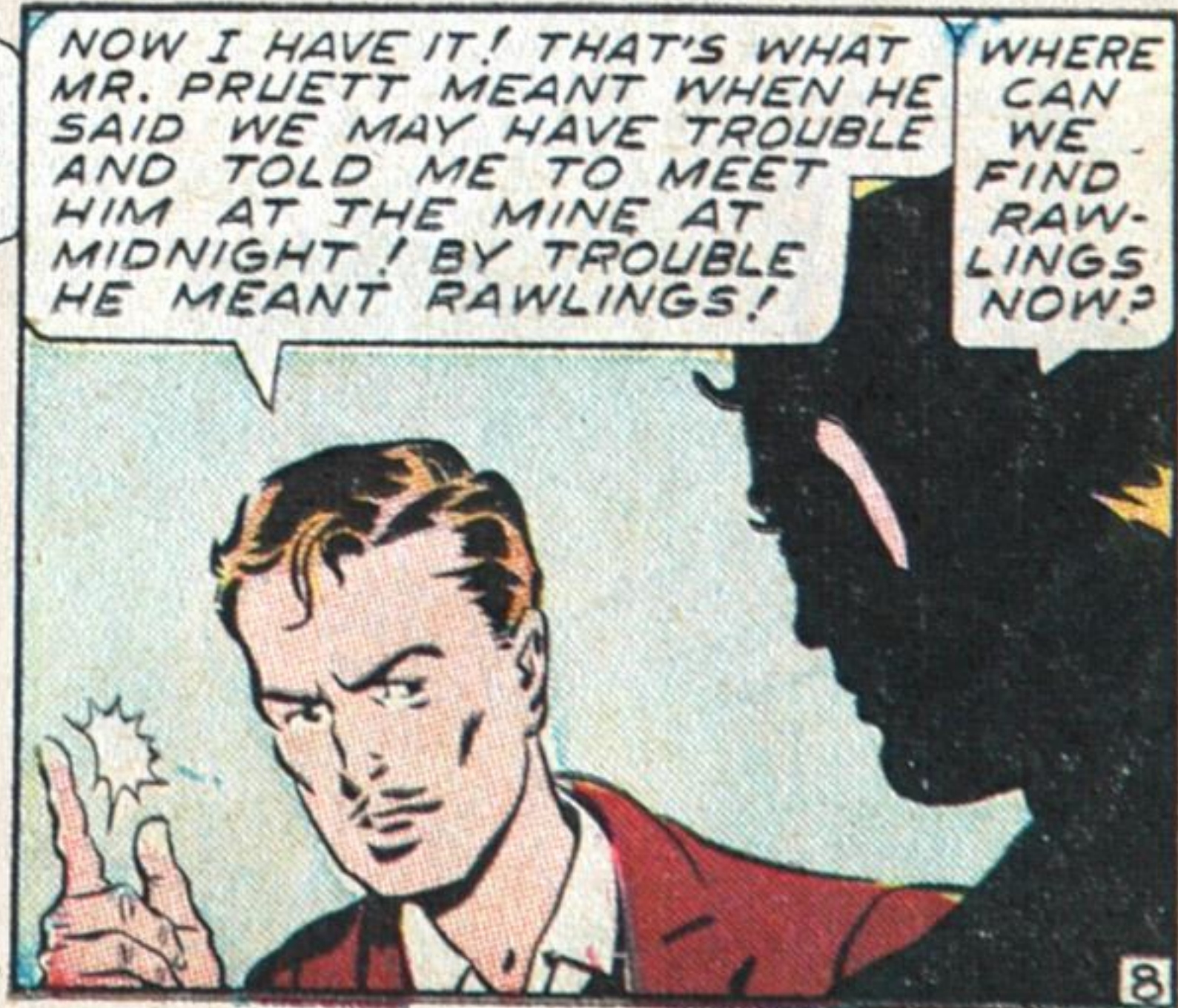
... SEVERAL HECTIC MOMENTS LATER...

WE DON'T KNOW WHY THIS RAWLINGS GUY WANTS THIS CROSLY BUMPED! WE'RE FROM OUTTA TOWN! HE HIRED US!

RAWLINGS, THE ASSISTANT MANAGER, EH?

NOW I HAVE IT! THAT'S WHAT MR. PRUETT MEANT WHEN HE SAID WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE AND TOLD ME TO MEET HIM AT THE MINE AT MIDNIGHT! BY TROUBLE HE MEANT RAWLINGS!

WHERE CAN WE FIND RAWLINGS NOW?





SUDDENLY AS THE THREE REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE SLOPE AND ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THE MINE PROPER, A DEAFENING DETONATION FOLLOWED BY AN ANGRY ROAR, MAKES THEM WHIRL AND LOOK UP...



DEEP INTO THE MINE RACE THE TRIO AHEAD OF THE ONRUSHING TORRENT THAT THREATENS TO ENGULF THEM...



TWO FLAMING FIGURES ZOOM UP TO BURN THEIR WAY OUT ONLY TO BE STOPPED COLD WITH A RESOUNDING CRASH...

WE'LL BURN A TUNNEL OUT FOR YOU, CROSLLEY!
OUCH!!

YEOW!
OUCH!



SAY! WHAT KIND OF A MINE IS THIS, ANYWAY?

ASBESTOS! THAT'S WHAT CHYROSTILE MEANS! DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

(GROAN)
NO!



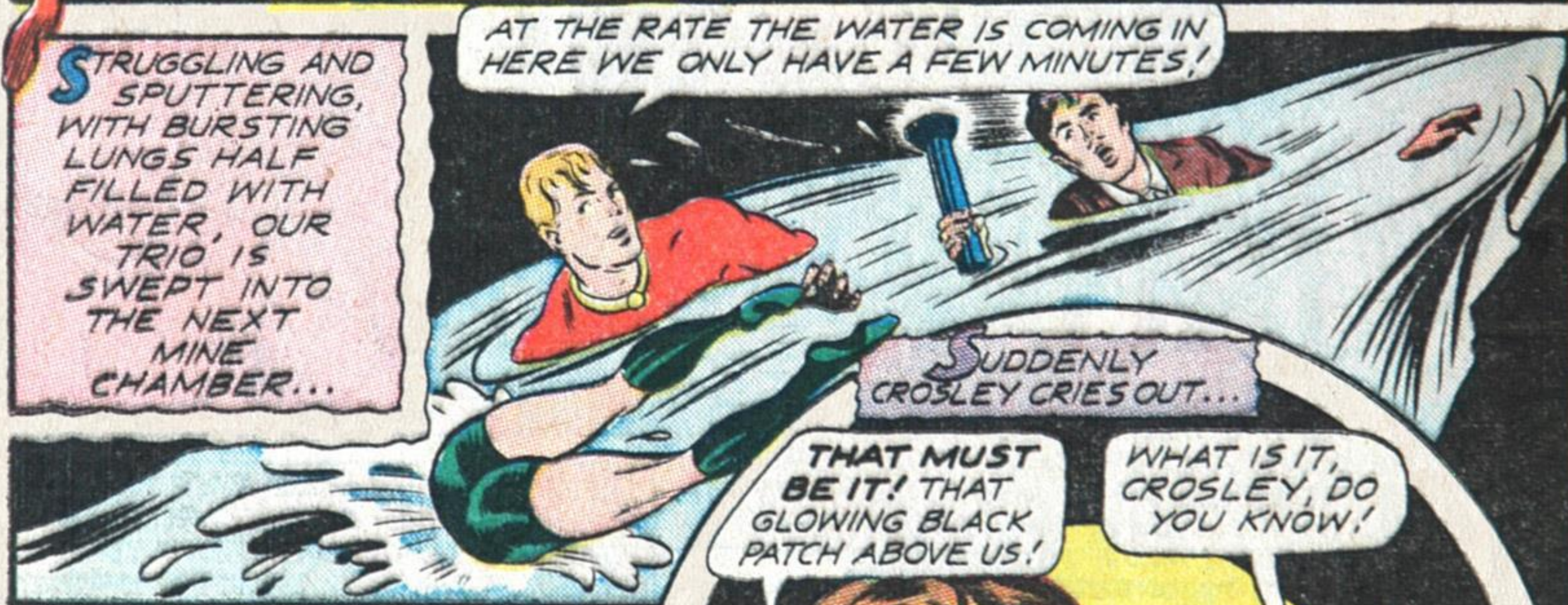
WHAT A SPOT!
ASBESTOS WALLS
AND RISING WATER!
WE'RE SUNK!

THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!
SWIM FOR THE NEXT MINE
CHAMBER, IT SLOPES UP!



AT THE RATE THE WATER IS COMING IN
HERE WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MINUTES!

STRUGGLING AND SPUTTERING,
WITH BURSTING LUNGS HALF
FILLED WITH WATER, OUR
TRIO IS SWEEPED INTO
THE NEXT
MINE
CHAMBER...



SUDDENLY
CROSLLEY CRIES OUT...

THAT MUST
BE IT! THAT
GLOWING BLACK
PATCH ABOVE US!

WHAT IS IT,
CROSLLEY, DO
YOU KNOW!



THIS IS THE
END! WE
CAN'T GO
ANY FARTHER!

SOMEWHERE
AROUND HERE IS
WHERE TRUETT
SAID HE MADE HIS
DISCOVERY!



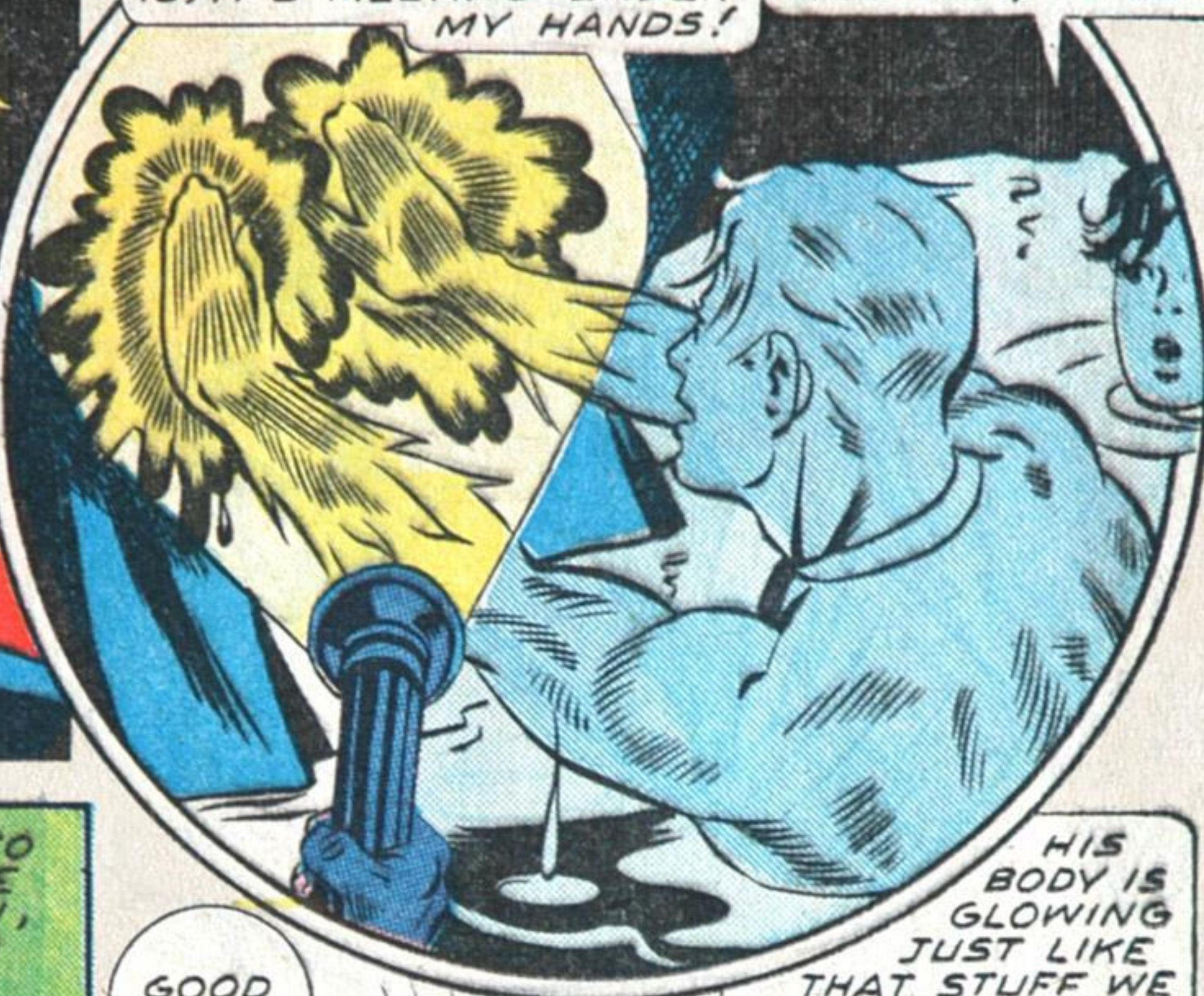
I REALLY DON'T KNOW! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE COAL?

PRAY IT IS! BECAUSE IT'S OUR SALVATION IF IT IS!

WITH BATED BREATH, TORCH TURNS ON HIS FLAME ON HANDS HELD ABOVE WATER AND DRY!

HOORAH! WHAT EVER IT IS, IT'S MELTING UNDER MY HANDS!

BUT OUR BODIES ARE WET, TORCH!

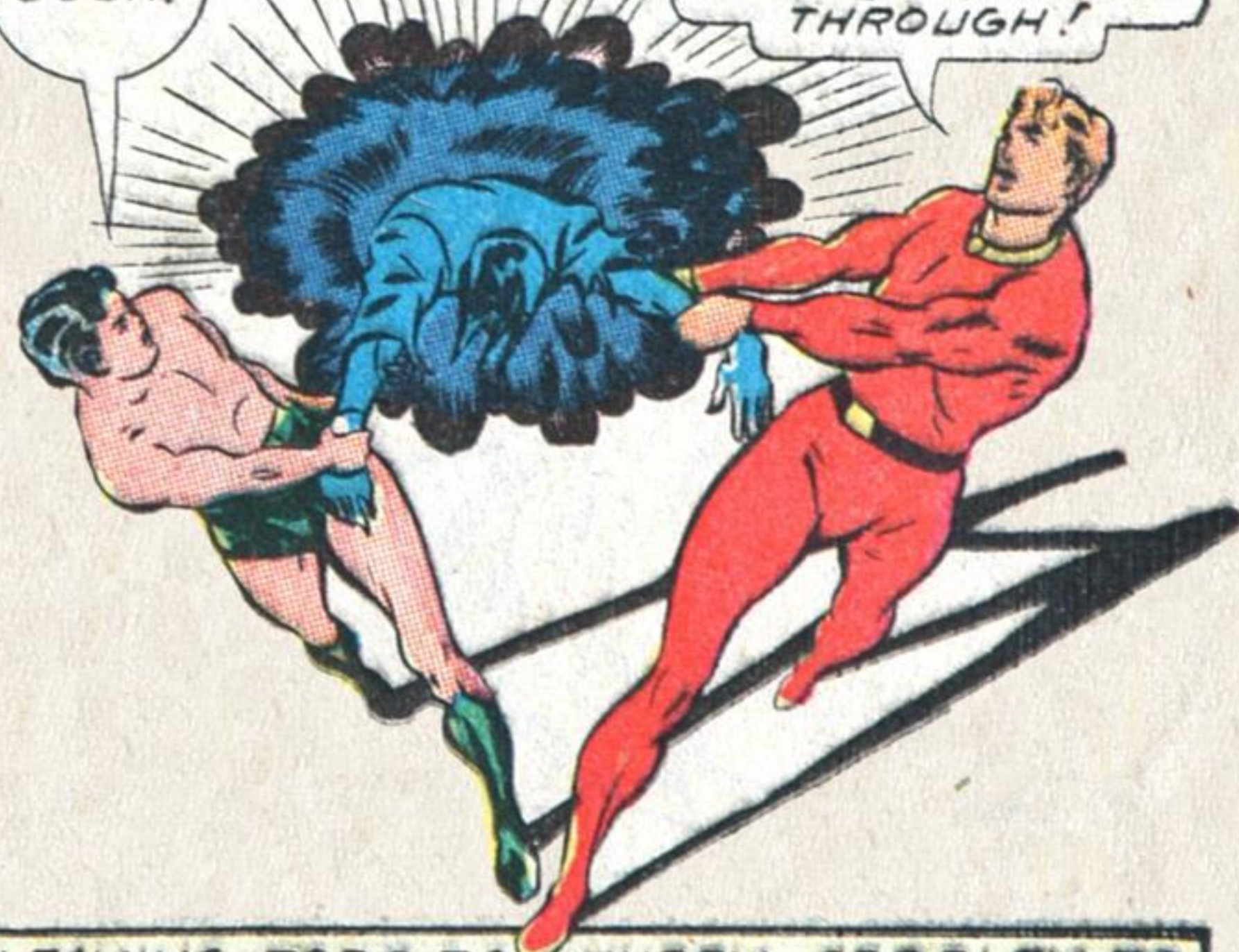


WE'LL BE ABLE TO RAISE OURSELVES OUT OF THE WATER AND THE HEAT FROM THE MELTING COAL WILL DRY US! COME ON, TORO! YOU FOLLOW US CROSLY!

ABLE TO FLAME AGAIN, TORCH AND TORO QUICKLY BURN THEIR WAY TO THE SURFACE AND ANXIOUSLY HELP HAUL OUT THE MOANING FIGURE OF CROSLY WITH CLOTHES AND BODY BURNED BLACK!

GOOD GOSH!

HIS BODY IS GLOWING JUST LIKE THAT STUFF WE BURNED OUR WAY THROUGH!



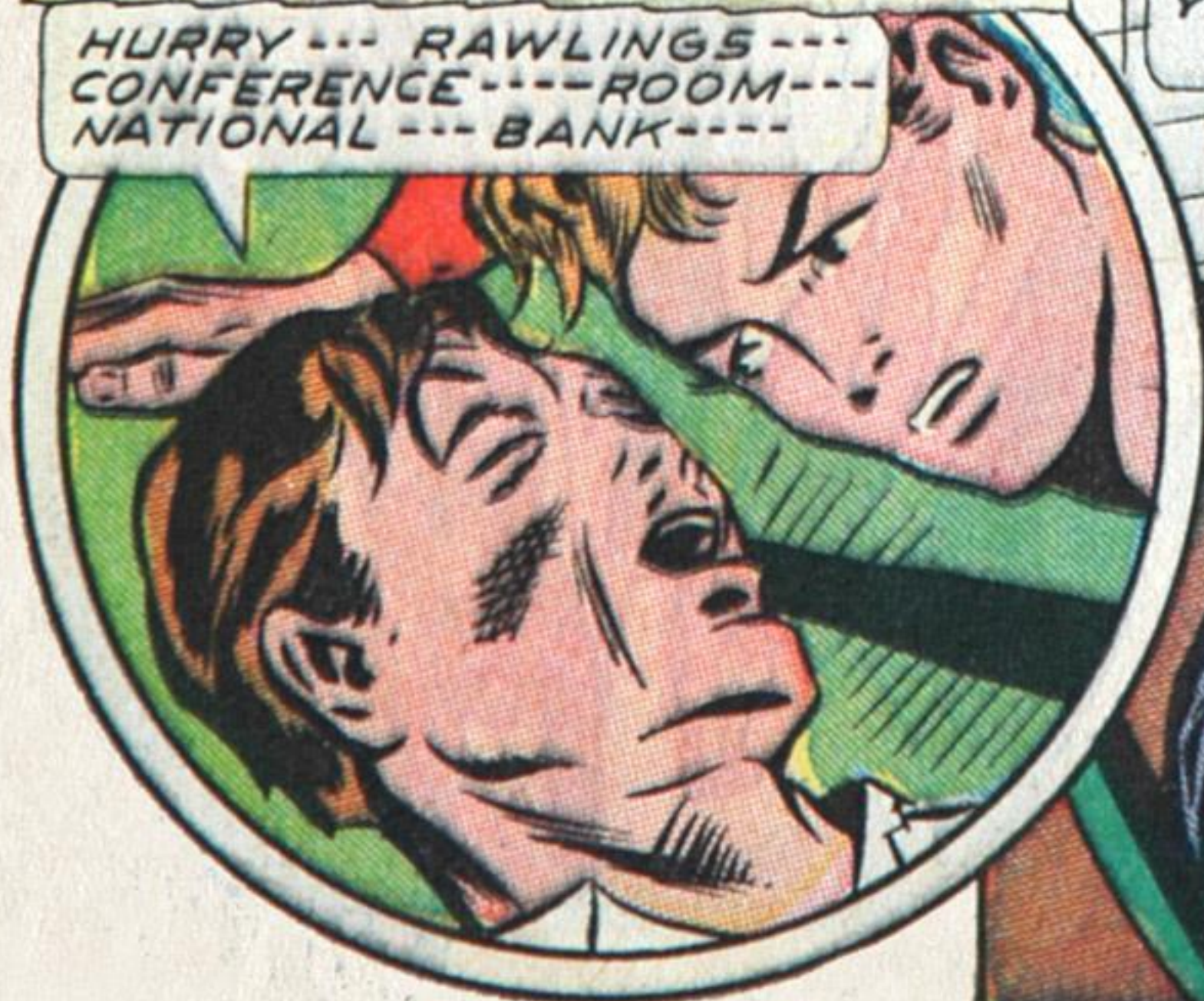
AS TORCH PREPARES TO RUSH THE AGONY-STRIKEN MAN TO THE HOSPITAL, HE MOTIONS TO TORCH TO KNEEL DOWN!

LEAVING TORO TO HURRY CROSLY TO THE HOSPITAL, TORCH CARRIES OUT THE STRICKEN MAN'S INSTRUCTIONS!

HURRY --- RAWLINGS --- CONFERENCE --- ROOM --- NATIONAL --- BANK ---

YEOW! THE TORCH?? AND ALIVE??

THAT, MY FRIEND, STAMPS YOU AS THE ONE WHO BLEW UP THE RIVER BARRIER!

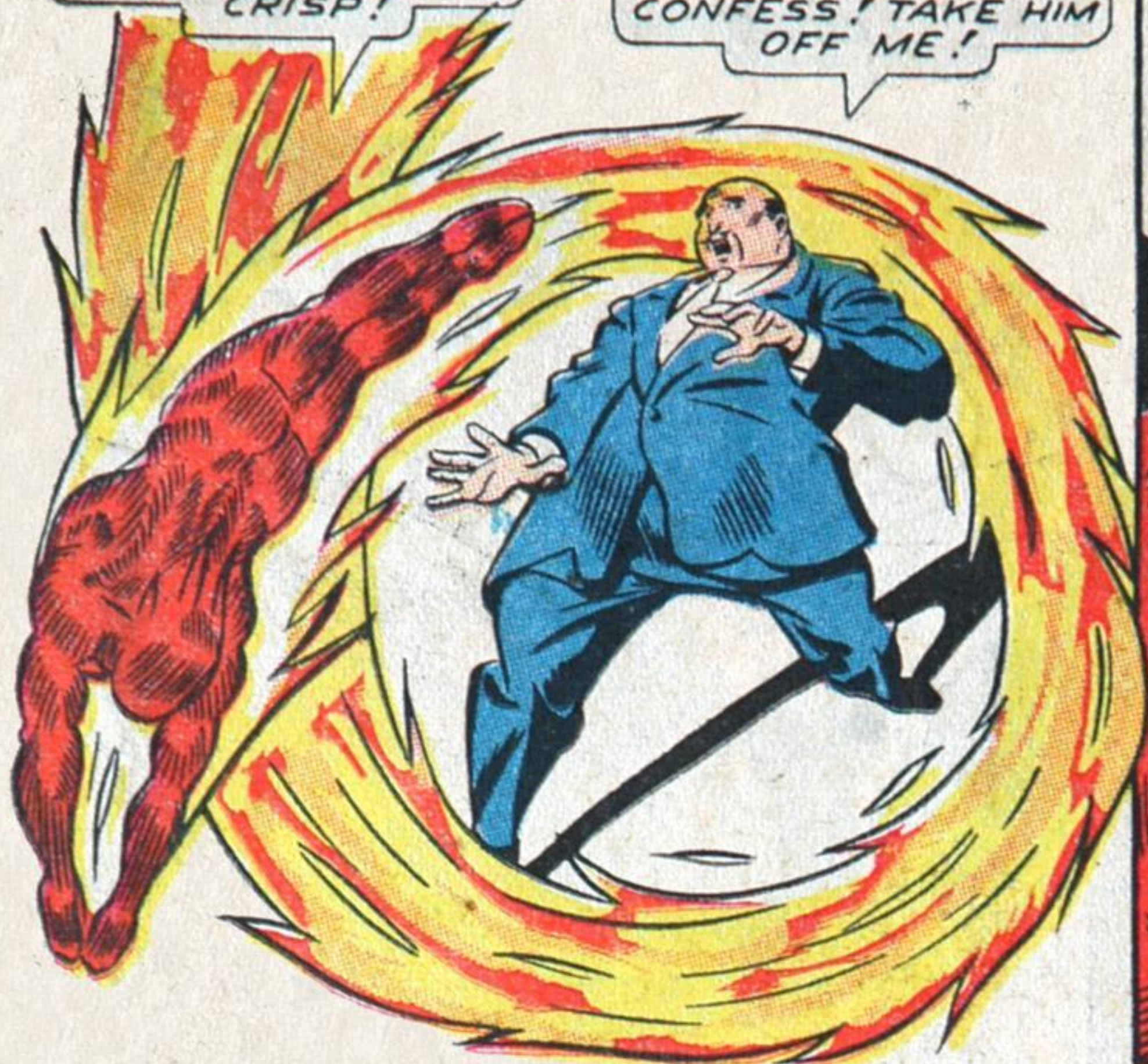


START SINGING BEFORE
I TOAST YOU TO A
CRISP!

Y-E-E-OUCH! TAKE
HIM AWAY! I'LL
CONFESS! TAKE HIM
OFF ME!

YOU KILLED
THE OLD
MAN AND
THEN FIRED
AT CROSLY
FROM THE
WOODS, WHEN
HE REACHED
THE MINE!

YES! I KNEW PEOPLE
WOULD THINK IT
WAS BECAUSE
TRUETT DIDN'T WANT
HIM TO MARRY
AGNES!

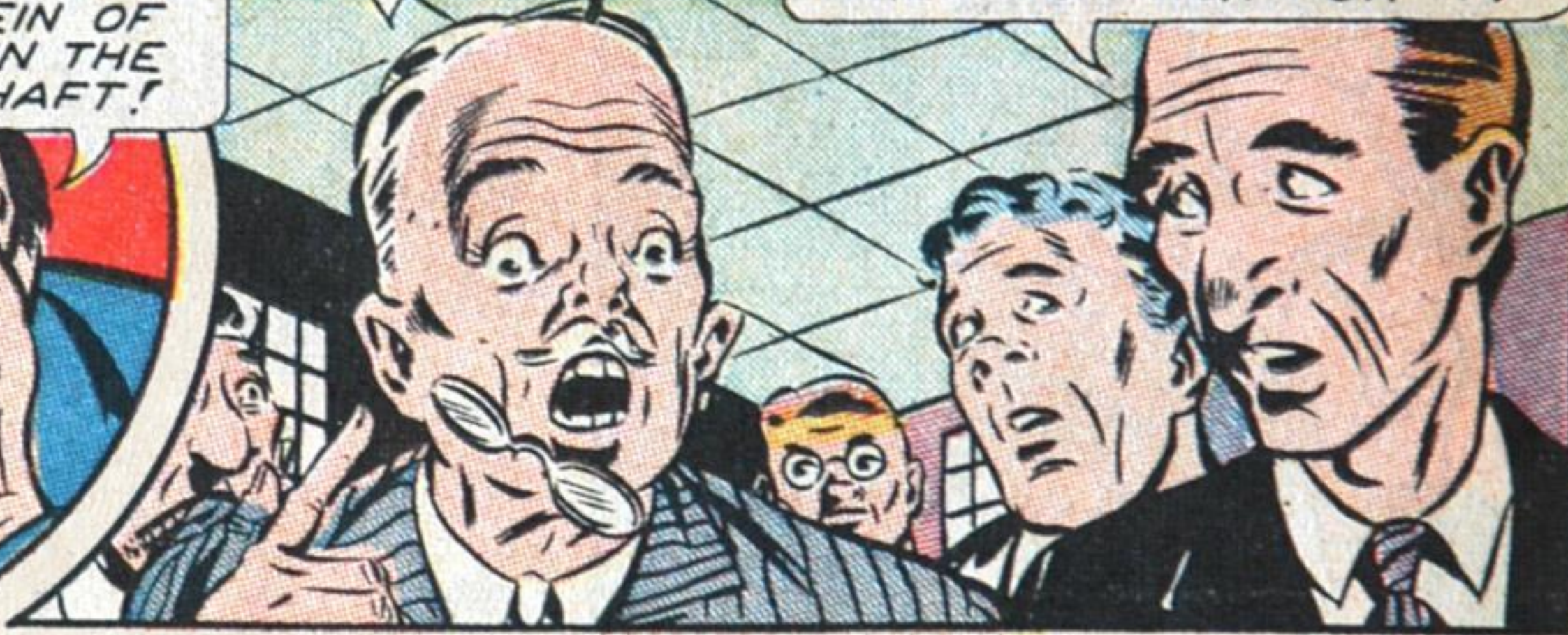


GO
AHEAD!
WHY?

I WANTED CROSLY
OUT OF THE WAY!
HE WAS THE ONLY
OTHER PERSON WHO
KNEW THAT TRUETT HAD
UNCOVERED A VEIN OF
PITCH BLENDE IN THE
ABANDONED SHAFT!

PITCH BLENDE??
THAT'S THE ORE
THAT RADIUM IS
DERIVED FROM!

NOW I KNOW WHY
RAWLINGS WAS SO ANX-
IOUS TO BUY THAT ABAN-
DONED SHAFT AND OF-
FERED SO MUCH FOR IT!



...THE NEXT DAY!

NICE PICTURE EH,
KID! TIME FOR
US TO BOW OUT!

YEP! SHE'S ALL SMILES
SINCE SHE HEARD THE
DOCTOR'S SAY CROSLY
WILL BE O.K. IN A
COUPLA WEEKS!

WHAT WAS
THAT LEGAL
BUSINESS
GOING ON
AT THE
HOSPITAL?

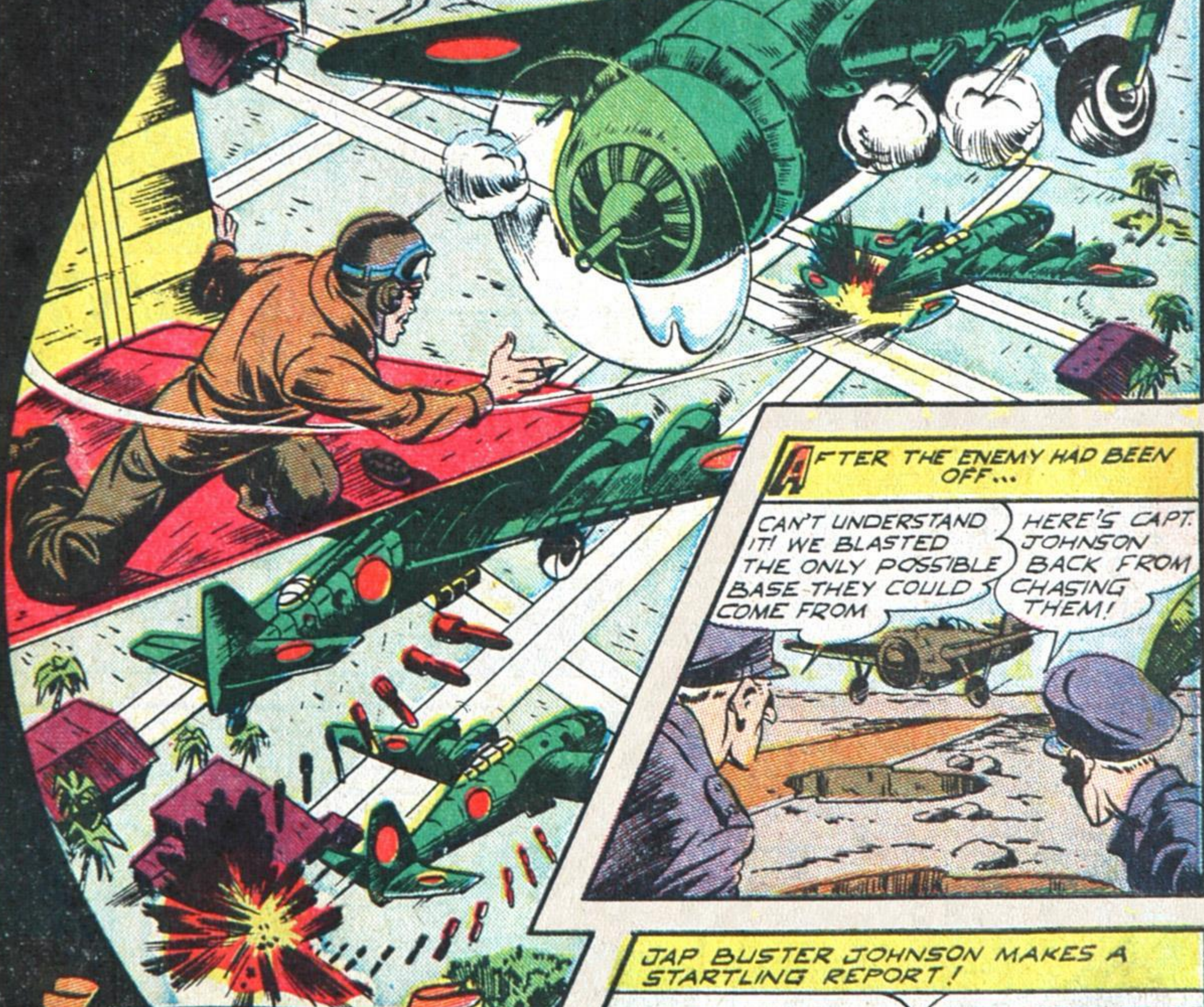
IT WAS A PARTNER-
SHIP IN THE MINES
AS A WEDDING
PRESENT! AND NOT
BAD -- AT ALL!



THE END

JAP BUSTER JOHNSON

IN "AIR BASE"



A NEWLY WON B-32 BASE, ONLY A FEW HUNDRED MILES FROM THE JAP HOMELAND, ATTACKED UNDER MYSTERIOUS AND PUZZLING CIRCUMSTANCES! AND ONCE AGAIN, THAT JAP BUSTING HERO, CAPTAIN JOHNSON LOCKS WITH A DESPERATE ENEMY IN A SPINE-TINGLING ADVENTURE!

AFTER THE ENEMY HAD BEEN OFF...

CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! WE BLASTED THE ONLY POSSIBLE BASE THEY COULD COME FROM

HERE'S CAPT. JOHNSON BACK FROM CHASING THEM!

JAP BUSTER JOHNSON MAKES A STARTLING REPORT!

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD THEY HEAD FOR JUBI--IT WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED!

EVERY FOOT OF THE ISLAND IS ROCK-MARKED WITH BOMB CRATERS!





THEIR FIGHTERS GANGED UP ON ME! WOULDN'T LET ME NEAR JUBI! I KEPT DUCKING 'EM-- BUT OTHERS CHASED ME BACK! IT SEEMED MIGHTY QUEER, AS IF THERE WERE SOMETHING THEY WERE HIDING!



NO OTHER ENEMY BASE IS WITHIN LAND BASED PLANE RANGE, SIR! THEY HAD TO COME FROM THE JUBI GROUP ABOVE US, HERE!

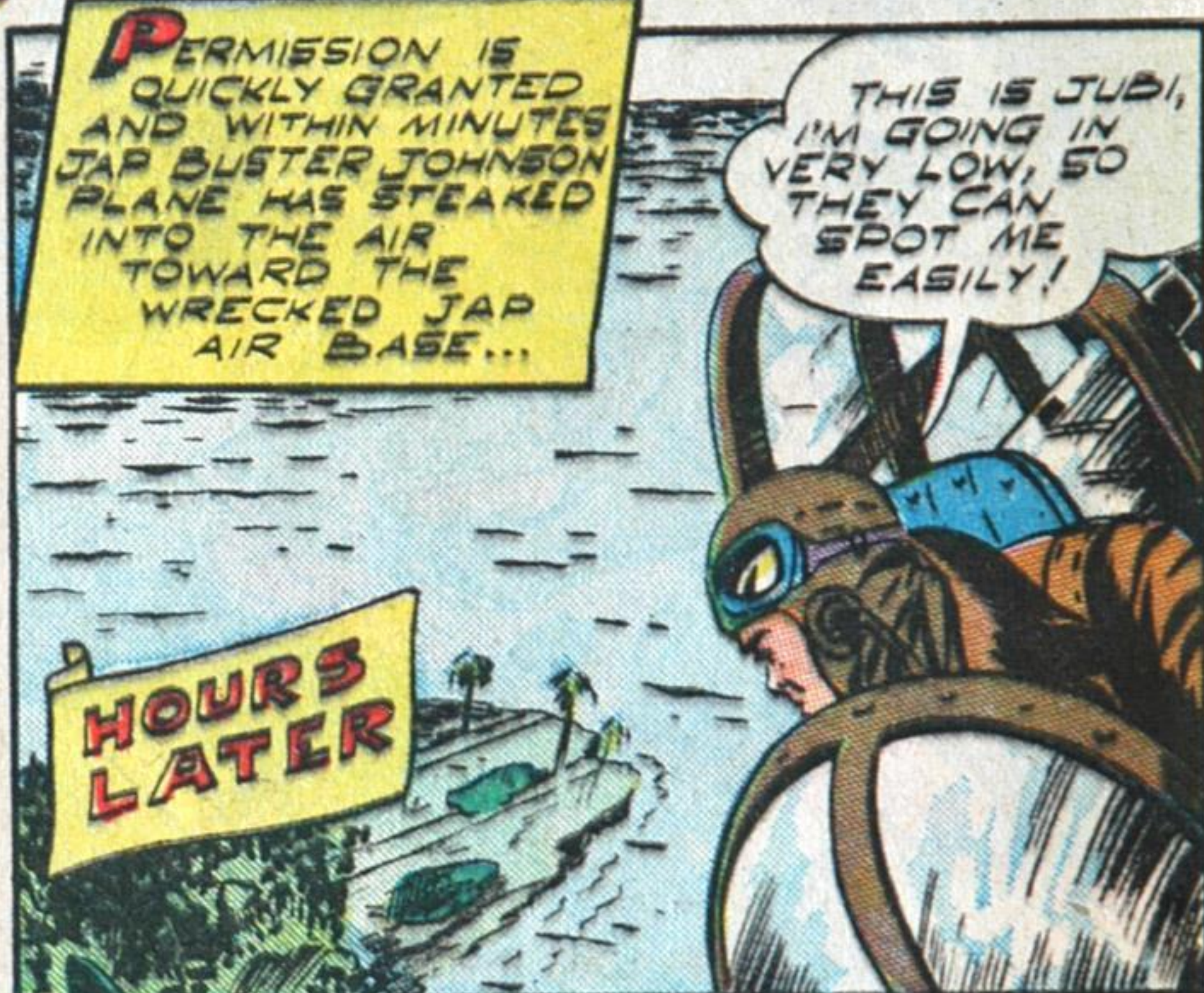
HM-- HOW COULD THEY, WITH THEIR BASE A WRECK?



THEY MIGHT GET A FEW PLANES OFF JUBI, BUT CERTAINLY NOT THE HUNDREDS THAT ATTACKED US!

IT MAY SOUND CRAZY, SIR, BUT I'M SURE THEY CAME FROM THERE AND I WOULD LIKE PERMISSION TO SOLO RECONNAISSANCE!

PERMISSION IS QUICKLY GRANTED AND WITHIN MINUTES JAP BLISTER JOHNSON PLANE HAS STEAKED INTO THE AIR TOWARD THE WRECKED JAP AIR BASE...



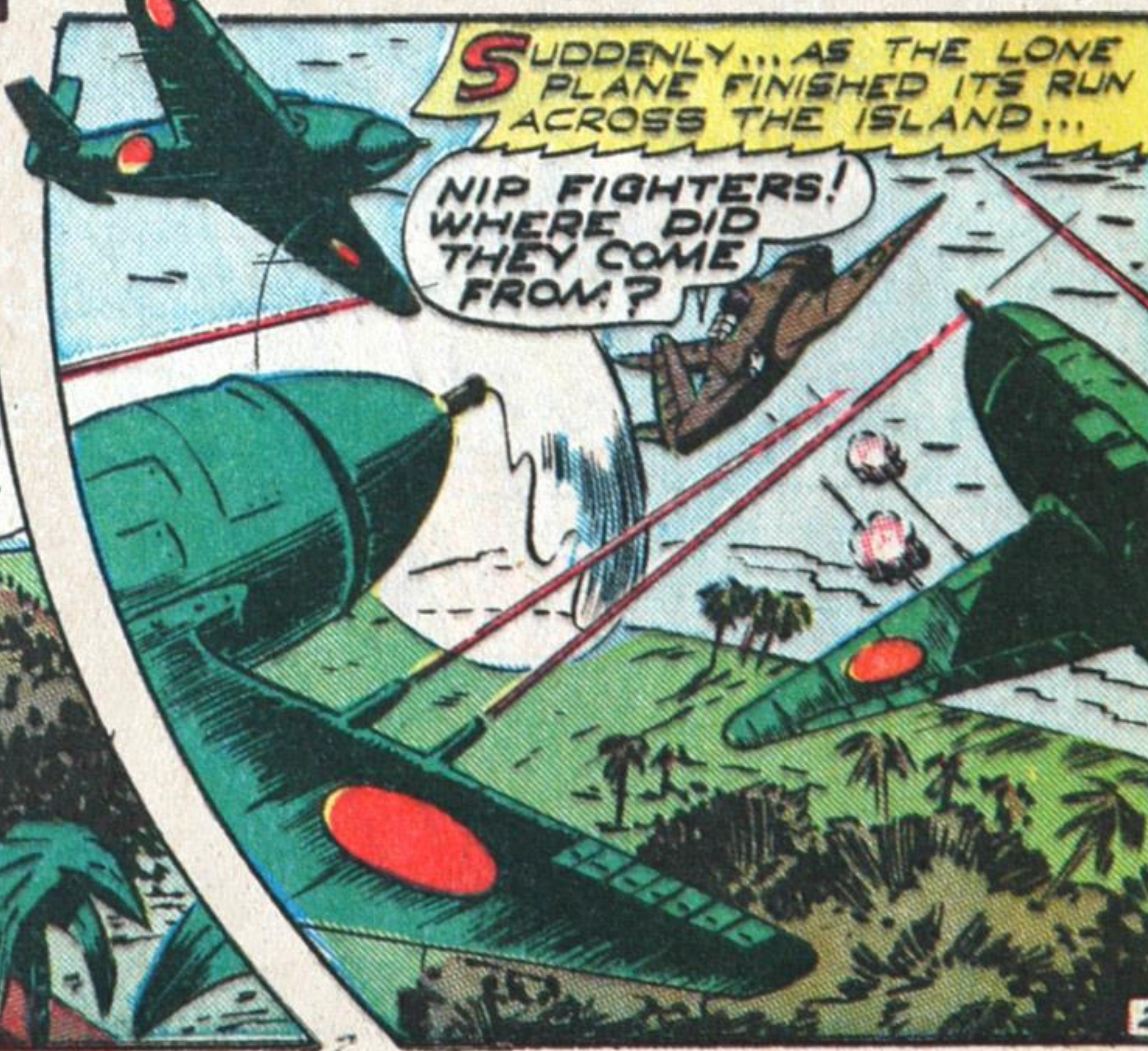
THIS IS JUBI, I'M GOING IN VERY LOW, SO THEY CAN SPOT ME EASILY!

HOURS LATER



SWEEPING IN LOW, THE LONE AMERICAN PLANE IS MET BY SCATTERED ACK-ACK FIRE...

THE GENERAL WAS RIGHT, THE JAP AIR BASE FLEET THAT ATTACKED US COULDN'T POSSIBLY TAKE OFF FROM THIS WRECKED FIELD!



SUDDENLY... AS THE LONE PLANE FINISHED ITS RUN ACROSS THE ISLAND...

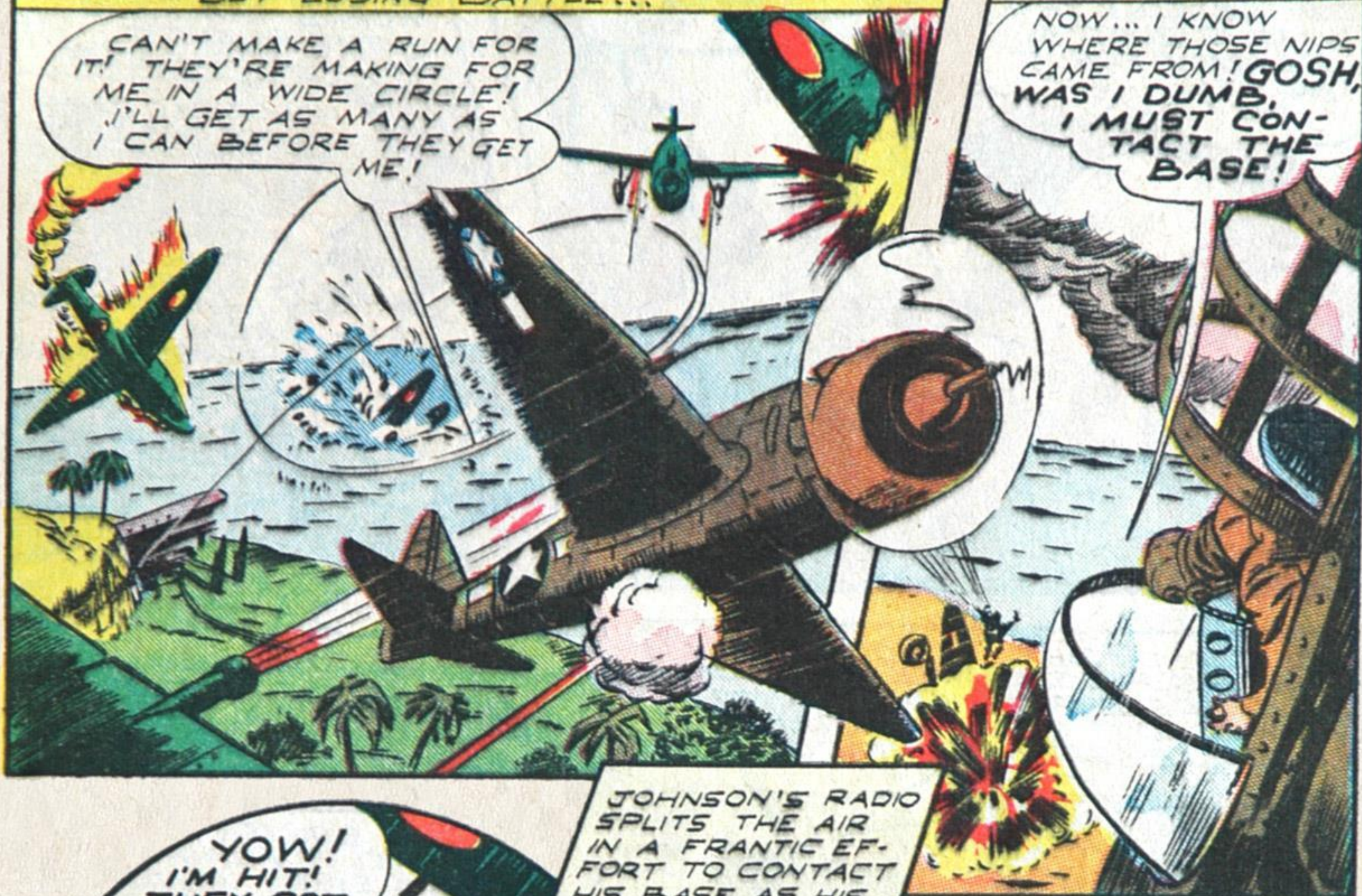
NIP FIGHTERS! WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

BESET BY A SWARM OF DEATH-SPOUTING JAP FIGHTERS... JOHNSON WAGES A GALLANT BUT LOSING BATTLE...

CAN'T MAKE A RUN FOR IT! THEY'RE MAKING FOR ME IN A WIDE CIRCLE! I'LL GET AS MANY AS I CAN BEFORE THEY GET ME!

... THEN... LIKE A FLASH OF INSPIRATION...

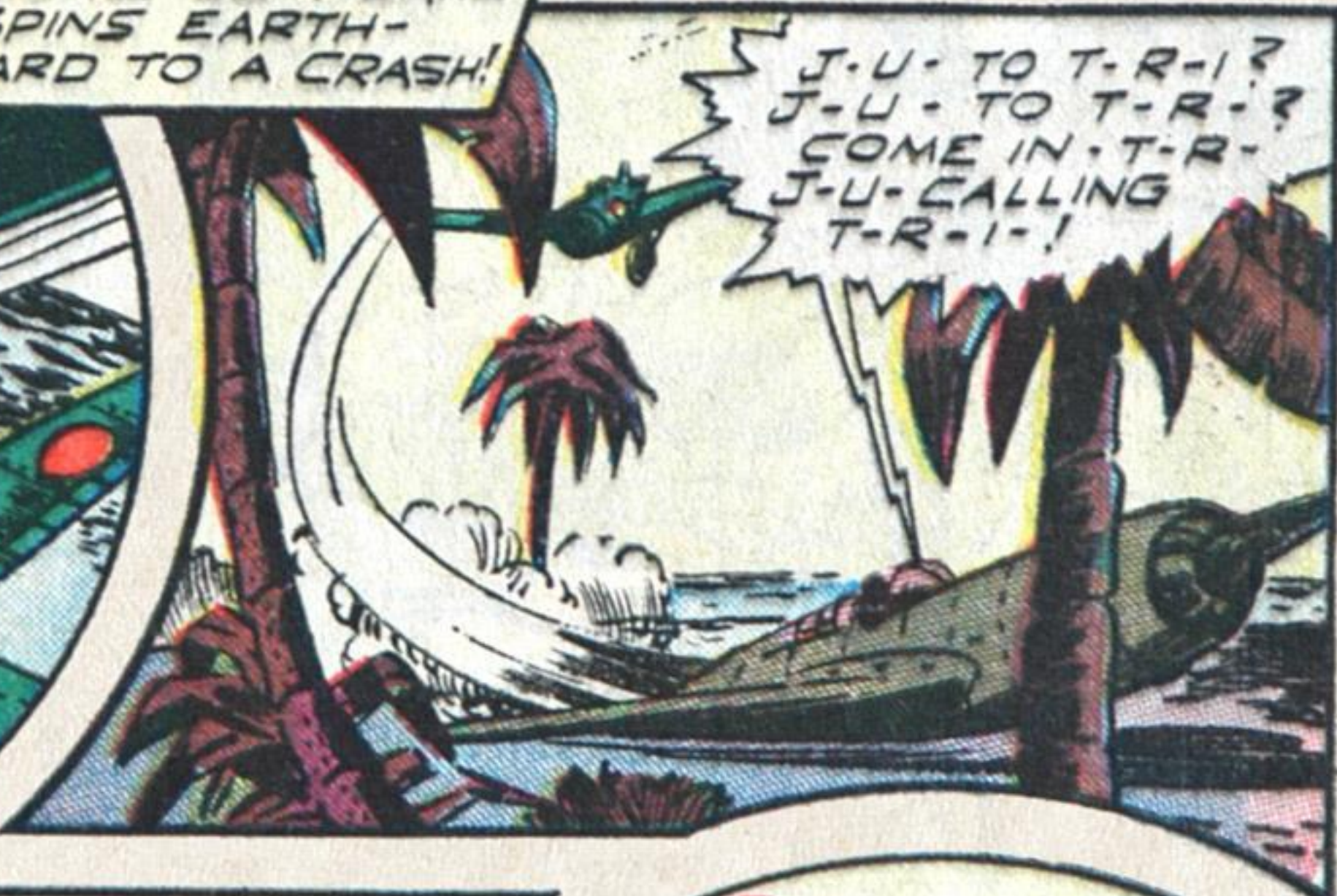
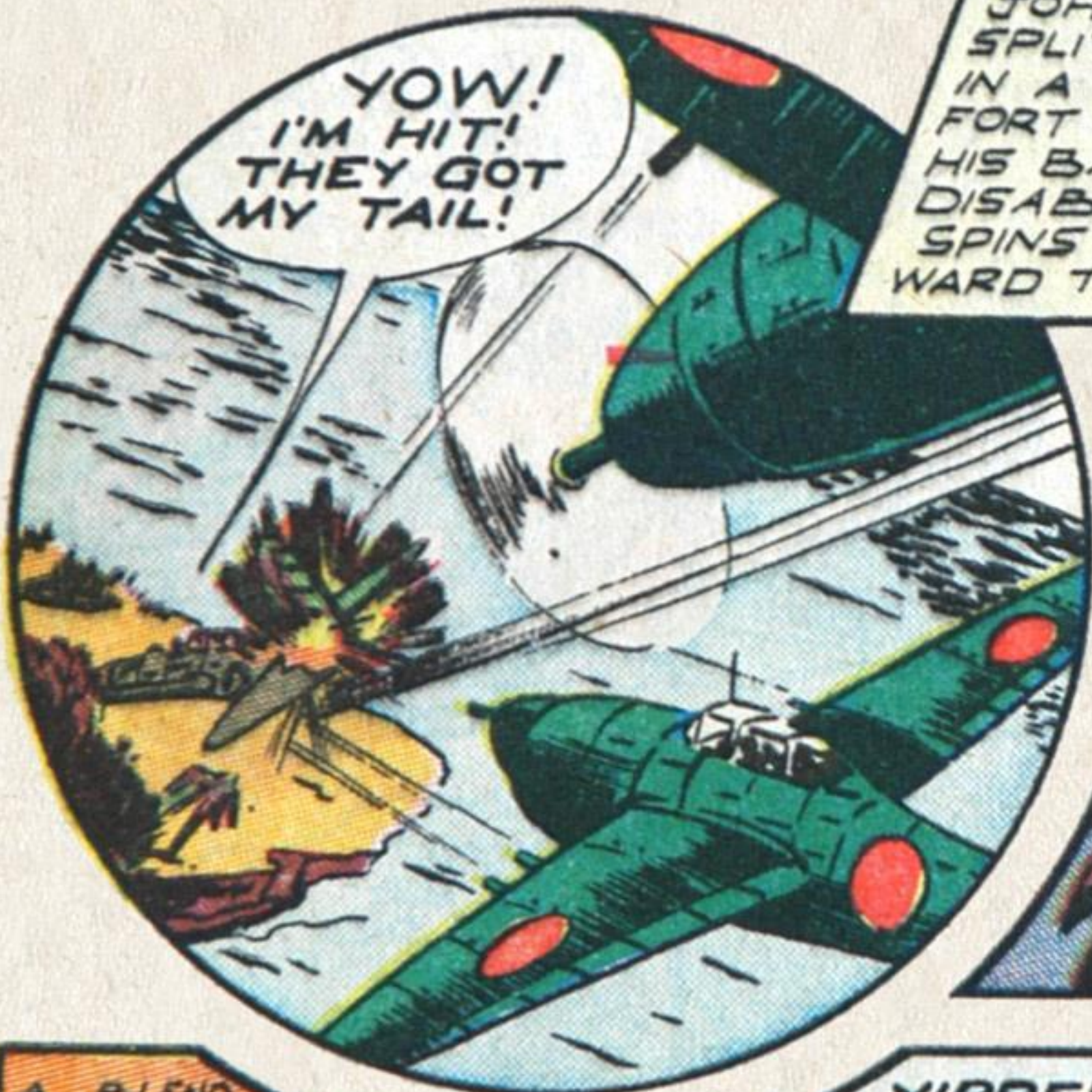
NOW... I KNOW WHERE THOSE NIPS CAME FROM! GOSH, WAS I DUMB, I MUST CONTACT THE BASE!



YOW! I'M HIT! THEY GOT MY TAIL!

JOHNSON'S RADIO SPLITS THE AIR IN A FRANTIC EFFORT TO CONTACT HIS BASE AS HIS DISABLED PLANE SPINS EARTHWARD TO A CRASH!

J-U-TO T-R-I? J-U-TO T-R-I? COME IN T-R-J-U-CALLING T-R-I-!



A BLEND OF SKILL AND LUCK COMBINE... AND THE PLANE MAKES A CRASH LANDING ON THE WRECKED JAP BASE...

YIPPEE! I RAISED THE BASE! NO TIME TO TELL THE BASE... THE NIPS WILL HEAR ME!

SHIELDING HIS ACTION WITH HIS BODY, JOHNSON SWINGS OVER TO THE AMERICAN BASE

SURRENDER OR DIE!

HOPE I CAN STALL LONG ENOUGH FOR THE BASE TO HEAR THE CONVERSATION THRU THE MIKE!

T-R-I-TO J-U-COME IN!





PRETTY TRICKY, YOU MONKEYS FOOLED US COMPLETELY! THIS BASE IS JUST A **DUMMY** FOR THE REAL ONE!

YANKEE DOG HAVE GUESSED SECRET!



JOHNSON'S RUSE WORKS AND THE THE BOASTING JAPS WORDS TRAIL INTO THE PLANE'S RADIO APPARATUS

HONORABLE JAP-ANESE TOO CLEVER FOR DETESTABLE ENEMY! WOODEN PLANES AND HANGARS ARE ALL YOU **YANKEE PIGS** HAVE WRECKED, **REAL BASE ACROSS CHANNEL ON #2 ISLAND!**



#2 ISLAND? BUT THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE DESERTED! HOW COULD IT BE A REAL BASE?

ENOUGH TALK! WILL SEE SOON! TAKE HIM TO HONORABLE HEADQUARTERS!

AND AT THE AMERICAN BASE... THE C.O. QUICKLY OVERCOMING THE STRANGE RADIO CONVERSATION, SHOUTS ORDERS....



JAP BUSTER JOHNSON DID IT AGAIN! GET EVERY AVAILABLE PLANE INTO THE AIR AT ONCE!



ONE HOUR LATER... JAP BUSTER JOHNSON... A PRISONER ON THE REAL BASE ACROSS THE CHANNEL.... WATCHES POPEY-ED AS THE GLOATING JAP COMMANDER... DEMONSTRATES THE CUNNING CAMOUFLAGE...

NOT BAD! ELEVATORS COMING UP... JUST LIKE THE FLIGHT DECK OF A FLAT TOP!

HONORABLE JAPANESE, CLEVER, NO? ALL HANGARS, BARRACKS, MACHINE SHOPS AND AMMUNITION **UNDERGROUND!** YOUR PLANES SEE NOTHING FROM AIR! **HA HA HA!**

UH UH! BUT WHAT ABOUT RUNWAYS? DIDN'T I SEE THEM? HOW DO YOU MANAGE THAT?

DO NO HARM TO ILLISTATE, SINCE YOU DIE IMMEDIATELY, SECRET WILL BE SAFE, SO PLEASE LOOK OUT WINDOW!



WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS
AFTER THE JAP HAS PLUNGED
HOME THE SWITCH...

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS
AT THE FIRST SIGN
OF ENEMY AIR CRAFT!

(GULP) WHEW!
PLANES GO
DOWN AND UP
COME TREES,
BUSHES, ROCKS
AND LAND-
SCAPES!

OUR NEW B-32'S
WILL MAKE HASH
OUT OF THIS BASE
ONCE THEY
LEARN OF
ITS
EXISTENCE!

WITH
YOU
DEAD,
THEY NEVER
WILL! EXCUSE
PLEASE---
THE PHONE!



OUR RADAR DETECT-
OR WARNS OF
PLANES ONLY
FIVE MIN-
UTES
AWAY!

YIPE! IT
WORKED!
THAT MUST
BE OUR
PLANES!
I'LL HAVE
TO WORK
FAST!

AS THE COMMANDER REACH-
ES FOR THE SWITCH---
JAP BUSTER JOHNSON
FLASHES INTO ACTION...



HA HA! WHEN
THEY GET
HERE, THEY'LL
SEE NOTHING,
OW-CH!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK!
WITHOUT
YOUR THICK
LENSES, YOU
WON'T BE
MUCH TROUBLE!



YEWOO!

HOPE THE
WIRES DON'T
TEAR LOOSE!
THEY MUST
SEE THE TAR-
GET WHEN
THEY ARRIVE!

MOYING SWIFTLY...
JOHNSON DUCKS UNDER
THE DESK...



GOT TO FIND
SOME WAY TO
PULL THAT
OTHER SWITCH!

MY GLASSES!
I CAN'T SEE!

LEAPING FOR THE OVERTURNED DESK...
JAP BUSTER JOHNSON PLUNGES
HOME THE SWITCH...



THERE'S NO
STOPPING ME,
NIP! HOPE
THIS IS THE
RIGHT ONE!

...**Q**UICKLY SAWING THROUGH THE
ROPE BINDING HIS WRISTS...
ON ONE OF THE BAYONETS OF
HIS FALLEN GUARDS... JAP
BUSTER JOHNSON RACES
DOWN AND ONTO THE AIR
FIELD AS THE DRONE OF
BOMBERS IS HEARD OVERHEAD!

I NEED THIS
CRATE MORE THAN
YOU DO, NIP! I DON'T
WANT TO BE DOWN THERE
WHEN THOSE B-32'S
START LAYING THOSE EGGS!



HOORAY! IT
WORKED! THE
NIP PLANES
ARE COMING
UP AND OUR
BOYS ARE
MAKING THEIR
RUN OVER
THE TARGET!

THANKS TO JAP BUSTER
JOHNSON'S ACTIONS... THE
CAMOUFLAGED BASE IS CAUGHT
FLAT FOOTED AND BLASTED
TO BITS...



WOW! NOT A PLANE
GOT OFF EXCEPT MINE!
OH OH! HERE COME
TWO FIGHTER ESCORTS
AFTER MY JAP
PLANE! I'M
BAILING
OUT!

DOWN FLOATS
JAP BUSTER
JOHNSON WITH
AN AMERICAN
FIGHTER
AFTER
HIM!

JUST GOES TO
SHOW THE DIFFER-
ENCE! THE JAPS
MACHINE GUN YOU
WHILE OUR BOYS
DROP YOU A
RUBBER BOAT
WITH FOOD
AND WATER!



THE END

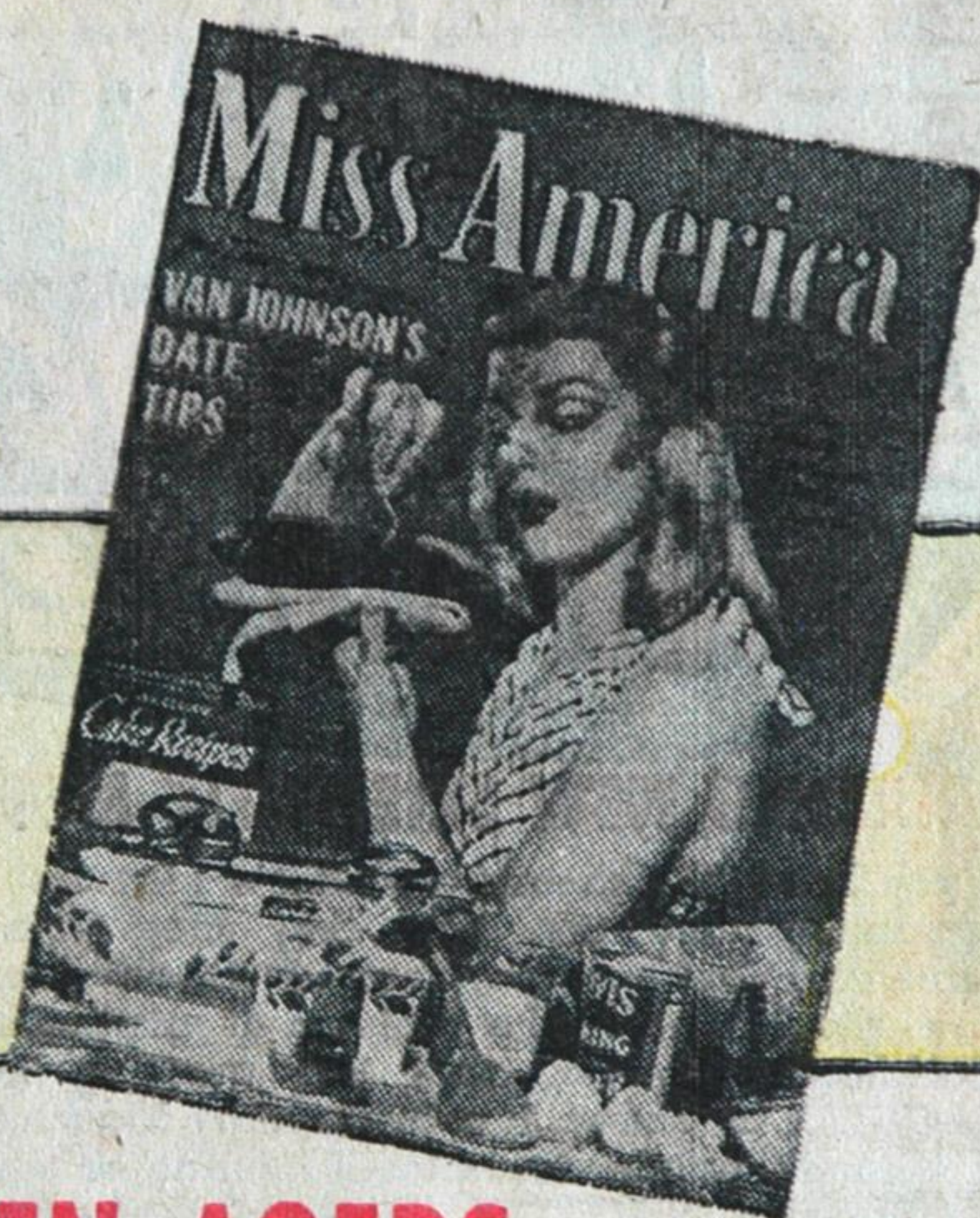
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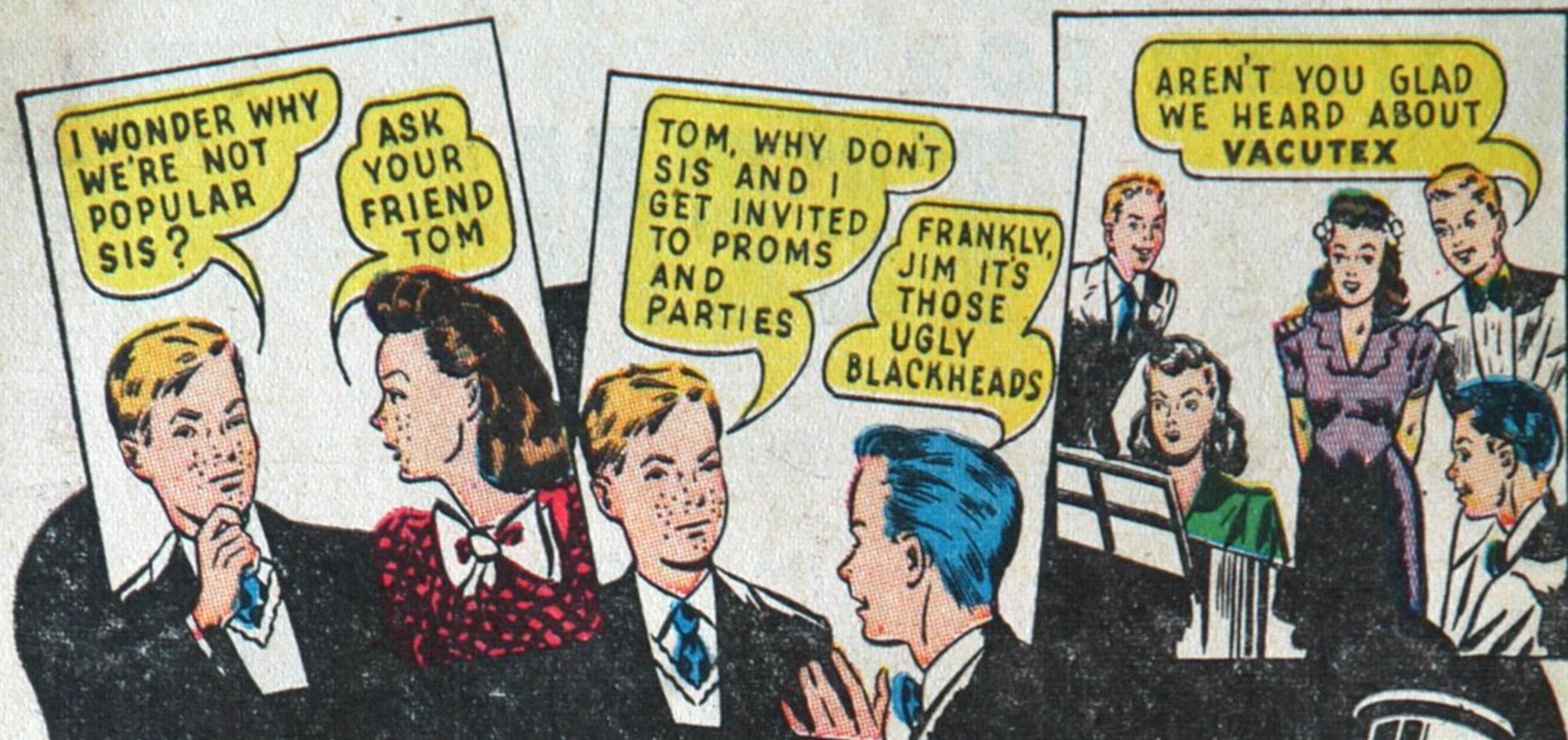
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